December 7, 2015

Note: It is relevant to explain that in several of the charts included in this Communique, M.P.S. data points are compared against state and national trends. A unique comparison includes a category defined as ‘Elite Comparison Group (E.C.G.)’ inclusive of ten school districts in the state that exhibit excellent academic outcomes. This group does not compare to M.P.S. in terms of demographics or funding. It most cases, the districts within the group receive higher state revenues and have a lower percentage of at-risk students. We utilize this comparison (when the data is available) to provide a relevant benchmark reflecting internal rigorous expectations.

E.C.G.: Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills, East Grand Rapids, Forest Hills, Grosse Pointe, Northville, Okemos, Rochester, Troy

Every now and then I hear from community members who have the perception that Midland Public Schools’ student academic performance is “not what it used to be,” which bothers me!

Almost every measurable indicator proves MPS students today perform at the same or at a higher achievement level than at any time in MPS history.

In this Communique, I am proud to share a number of our current measures and data.

MPS student academic performance … strong as ever? You be the Judge.

Academic Excellence Indicators
7 out of 11 MPS schools ranked above the 80th percentile in the Michigan Department of Education Top to Bottom Rankings. Three of our MPS schools are above the 90th percentile.

US News and World Report
has recognized Midland High and Dow High as Silver Medal Award Schools in 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015

MPS Graduation Rate in 2015: 97%
HIGHEST IN MPS HISTORY!

MPS ACT Composite Score in 2015 ...
HIGHEST IN MPS HISTORY—23.0!
⇒ Please keep in mind, ALL MPS students took the ACT last year and all will take the SAT in future years.
⇒ Prior to 2007 only college bound students took the ACT.
⇒ MPS ACT Composite is 3.1 points higher than the State Average.
⇒ MPS ACT Composite score is in the top 4% of all schools in the State of Michigan.

2015 MPS graduates earned over $16 million in college scholarships!
80% of MPS graduates enroll in college within one year of high school completion ... HIGHEST PERCENTAGE IN MPS HISTORY!

MPS students took 493 College Board Advanced Placement (AP) tests with 86% receiving passing scores (college credit)—20% above the State average and 25% points above the global average.

MPS students took 550 International Baccalaureate (IB) exams with 90% receiving passing scores (college credit). 28 students earned the full IB Diploma, which is the highest number earning the full diploma in MPS history.

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If you would like to dive deeper into student performance data, go to the MPS website (www.midlandps.org) and click on the MI School Data icon under “Transparency Links” on the right side of the website.

The MPS State Foundation Allowance (per pupil funding from the State) has decreased from
$8,904 per student in 2008-09 to $8,291 per student in 2015-16.

MPS Economically Disadvantaged student population has increased from
- 13% in 2004 to
- 29% in 2015
while our student academic performance has either maintained or increased.

MPS high school course offerings of 190 is the most course offerings we have offered in the last five years.

MPS Special Education enrollment has increased from 12% in 2010 to 15% in 2015 and yet academic performance has increased.

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Chestnut Hill Elementary earned the National Blue Ribbon School recognition in the fall of 2015!

All MPS elementary schools are on target to be fully authorized International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme (IB PYP) schools in the next 6-12 months.

All MPS learning facilities will be transformed into 21st Century learning facilities over the next three years thanks to our community supporting our February 2015 Bond Proposal.

MPS student academic performance... strong as ever? ABSOLUTELY!!!

Our students, teachers, administrators, support staff, parents and community can be proud of MPS academic results.