February Professional Development ... During our Friday, February 12, day set aside for professional development all Midland Public Schools’ teachers will receive training from Mr. Thomas Mynsberge on Critical Incident Management. Mr. Mynsberge has retired from the Michigan State Police Department after 27 years of service. He is responsible for the county-wide coordination of school responses and the training of school staff to respond to incidents in numerous Mid-Michigan counties, including Midland County.

In this training, Mr. Mynsberge will inform teachers about Lockdown, Secure Mode, Bomb Threats, Shelter in Place and more. Needless to say, we hope we never have to use the information, however, we also know we want our teachers informed, equipped and ready should the need ever arise.

THE 2016 ROBOTICS SEASON IS UNDERWAY!

The fun & exciting 2016 FIRST Robotics Competition Season is underway. The 9-year veteran Dow High Team 2619—The Charge, and the second year Midland High Team 5509—Like a Boss, represented Midland Public Schools. More than 500 high school students from the Great Lakes Bay Region were present as the teams learned about this year’s game challenge for which each team will design, build, and program a new robot over the next six weeks. The 2016 competition is called "FIRST Stronghold", where two Alliances of three robots each are on a quest to breach their opponents’ fortifications, weaken their tower with boulders, and capture the opposing tower. A 2016 FIRST Robotics District Competition will be held at H. H. Dow High School on March 17-19. The event is free and the public is welcome. More information can be found here: http://www.the-charge.com/

During Friday’s Snow Sculpture Competition, students showcased their teamwork, imagination and artistic talents. Kudos to all who participated and to Mr. Gledhill for organizing this great event!

The 43rd Annual Midland County Snow Sculpture contest was held this past Friday, January 15, at its NEW location of the Midland City Forest. Twenty middle and high school teams participated. The H.H.Dow High team of Sara Kollig, Nicolas Pereira, and Madison Werries took both first place AND People’s Choice Award with their sculpture called “Ouroboros.” The team of Lauren Hoffman, Kaely Harmer, and Madeleine Colman won Honorable Mention with their sculpture “Attack of the Giant Sloth.” Great job all participants!

Are you or do you know someone who is looking for work during the school day?

MPS is looking for ...
- Long-Term Substitutes for Spanish and Special Education
- Substitute Teachers
- Substitute Paraprofessionals
- Substitute Bus Drivers

For More Information contact Human Resources at 923-5021.

When you are seeking information about the bond projects: current, completed and upcoming, check out the bond projects page on the MPS website: https://new.midlandps.org/

Have questions or comments?
Click on the MPS Connect! icon on our website (www.midlandps.org) or call our office at 923-5026. Let’s Connect!

MPS Shining Star Nominations are now being accepted for MPS staff members who you feel make MPS a better place for students. Please take a moment to nominate an MPS staff member today. http://midps.org/shiningstarform
Check it out … Our newest MPS TV show, MPS on the Move, is up and running. It highlights the great things going on in the district. In the first show, Host Scott Cochran discusses MPS student achievement, M-STEP results, bond project updates, and recent STEM activities in the district. Check it out on our YouTube site—click the YouTube button on the website (www.midlandps.org), or go to: https://www.youtube.com/user/MidlandPublicSchools

Congratulations to the Dow High Varsity Debate Team that were finalists and placed 2nd overall at the Michigan Interscholastic Forensics Association Policy Debate State Championship recently. This win, combined with the Novice State Debate Championship, make DHS the Overall Policy Debate State Champions for the 2015 season.

Congratulations to the Midland High BPA (Business Professionals of America) members who competed recently at CMU against over 500 of their peers. Everyone placed in their respective events and 44 students qualified for State Competition.

Check out this great connection between a Midland Public Schools’ alumni and an event this coming weekend (January 22-24) at the Midland Center for the Arts …

The weekend of January 22, 23, and 24, the Midland Center for the Arts will be showing the feature length documentary entitled, He Named Me Malala. The film traces Malala’s life struggles from her early education desires, through her recovery from being shot, to her becoming a spokesperson for children’s rights, which earned her a Nobel Peace Prize. The underlying background to all these events shows Malala’s desire is to be a normal girl. The documentary is one of fifteen being considered for Oscar nomination.

Alumni, Allan Duso, spent a year as part of the editing staff for this documentary. He started his formal training to become a part of the film industry by taking the MPS video communications class. Allan was able to use the foundation skills he learned in the video class to be very successful at Syracuse University where he majored in Radio, Television, and Film. Since the completion of the documentary, Allan has continued to live in L.A. and work on a variety of film projects. His latest documentary will air on ESPN in March.

In this photo are the people involved in creating He Named Me Malala. Malala and her dad are in the photo. Allan is standing just behind Malala on the right.

“pearls” of wisdom …

“We must learn to live together as brothers or perish together as fools.”
— Martin Luther King, Jr.

“I look to a day when people will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character.”
— Martin Luther King, Jr.

The Dow High German Club spent some time after school on January 14 with Jefferson Middle School students. They wanted a chance to include the middle schoolers in their activities, and answer any questions the students had about taking German at the high school level. The DHS students brought some treats, played some board games and chatted about the German classes at Dow High. When the meeting ended, Jefferson students were invited to attend future Dow High German Club meetings.

2016-17 Kindergarten Enrollment Plans are Underway!

If you have a child who will be 5 years old before September 1, 2016 please plan to attend a parent orientation meeting at your child’s school. If you know of a neighbor and/or friend’s child who would qualify, please pass on this information. Thank you!

- January 27: 6:00 p.m. Woodcrest
- February 2: 5:30 p.m. Chestnut Hill, Eastlawn, Plymouth
- February 2: 6:00 p.m. Carpenter, Siebert
- February 3: 5:30 p.m. Adams

Welcome to Kindergarten

Are you interested in finding out about our 4-year-old preschool program for 2016-17? Attend the Preschool Orientation on Tuesday, February 2 from 5:30-6:30 at Adams Elementary.