Nominate an MPS Teacher for the Gerstacker Teacher Proficiency Awards

This year’s Gerstacker Ceremony will take place May 12 at 4:10 pm at Northwood University and will celebrate 61 years of teaching excellence.

The nomination window is now open. For nomination information please go to our website—www.midlandps.org.

Don’t miss your chance. Nominate a great MPS teacher today!

These awards are made possible through the generous support of the Carl and Esther Gerstacker Donor-Advised Fund at the Midland Area Comm. Foundation.

IB—Primary Years Programme … Where are we now?

- Applications for Authorization for our Phase 1 schools (Adams, Chestnut Hill, Plymouth and Woodcrest) have been accepted. Verification visits will take place in the spring of 2016.
- Phase 2 schools (Carpenter, Eastlawn, Siebert) submitted their applications for Candidacy in Spring 2015 and have been accepted as PYP Candidate Schools. Their journey continues with the Candidacy Phase.
- The Programme of Inquiry for each school has been developed and posted.
- Professional development opportunities continue to be provided to help teachers build their knowledge of the PYP as well as write the Units of Inquiry required per grade level.
- Students and staff are taking action in their school, local, and global communities.
- Our IB Primary Years Programme journey has been made possible by the generosity of the Dow, Gerstacker and Strosacker Foundations, in addition to a grant provided by The Dow Chemical Company.

Chestnut Hill 2nd grade students performed “surgery” on words. Their lesson was on contractions. What a great “hands on” learning activity!

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Best wishes to all of the Dow High students and staff performing at Saturday’s (February 20) Ren Fair at the Midland Center for the Arts. We know it will be a wonderful evening enjoyed by all!

Midland High Student, Emily Wessel, was recently awarded the Leader Advancement Scholarship from Central Michigan University. She was one of 2,008 applicants who applied and 40 were awarded. This scholarship is for students who go above and beyond in their schools and communities. This is a $2,000 annual scholarship, as well as a four-year program in the Leadership Institution.

CongratulationsH. H. Dow High named an Academic State Champion for 2015!

Last week, Bridge Magazine named H. H. Dow one of 44 Academic State Champions for 2015 in Michigan!

Check out bridgemi.com to see Dow High listed among the other state champ high schools! Congratulations DHS!!!

Over 140 students county-wide participated in last week’s Midland County CTE Exploration Day. Students explored CTE opportunities available to them in auto tech, health care, welding, CAD, building trades and much more.

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**MPS Students Compete in 2016 Mid-Michigan Brain Bee**

Sixty-five Mid-Michigan high school students competed in the February 5 event that tested knowledge of brain function, location, brain disorders and other brain facts. After the competition and lunch, participants were able to tour the neuroscience labs at CMU. They are doing research on Parkinson’s, Alzheimer’s, Huntington’s, ALS, stroke, and brain injury. Very fascinating stuff.

**Midland High School**—Hanbyul Johnson, Alexis Ouderkirk, Zoe Stirn, and Ryan Swierzbni competed. Congrats to Zoe Stirn who finished 5th; Alexis, Ryan and Hanbyul finished in the top 10. Ms. Melissa Toner is their advisor.

**Dow High School**—Bailey Flint, Madi Kent, Sunny Kim, Catie Meadow, Lucia Palencia, Miriam Podkolzin, Melanie Sequeira, Helena Weick, Stewart Zondlak competed. Congrats to Madi Kent who placed 2nd! Ms. Kathy Snyder is their advisor.

**MHS Drama** participated in the Mid-Michigan Theatre Festival on February 6. Winning the Technical Achievement Award were the members of the orchestra pit: Em Thomas, Elani Glover, Aryan Glover, Rebecca Henning, Brendan Short, Greg Draves, Tyler Benoit, and Dakota Toronjo. Winning Best Actor was Zach Federer. Winning Best Actress was Allie Williams. Best wishes as you continue your competitive journey!

**Midland Public Schools’ Pom Teams Represent MPS Proudly at States!**

Pom coaches are very proud of their hard working girls and the teams’ placing at competitions this year.

- **Dow High:**
  - Varsity - 3rd Place;
  - JV - 2016 Champions

- **Midland High:**
  - Varsity placed 3rd in the State in Division II
  - JV placed 4th in the State.