May 16, 2016

Congratulations to this year’s Gerstacker Teacher Award Winners!

Jennifer Hess
Special Education Teacher at HH Dow High

Kimberli McManan
Spanish Teacher at Adams & Siebert Elementary Schools

John Mulvaney
Social Studies Teacher at Midland High

Susan Shaffer
Fourth Grade Teacher at Siebert Elementary

The 61st Annual Gerstacker Awards for Excellence in Teaching Ceremony was held on May 12. In addition to the four teachers who received the Gerstacker award, those who have 25, 30 & 35 years of service with MPS and those who are retiring this school year were honored.

(The MPS retiring teachers/administrators who were honored are listed on page two of this Communiqué.)

Thank you to the Gerstacker family for their wonderful support through the years and for making this annual celebration of MPS education possible!

MPS Young 5 Kindergarten Program is Accepting Students for 2016-17 ...

Do you have a child turning 5 before September 1, 2016 who would benefit from additional time to develop school readiness skills?

MPS has two Young 5’s classes for the 2016-17 school year. This no-fee program is the perfect bridge between preschool and kindergarten. Our Young 5’s Program follows the IB Primary Years Programme in a modified kindergarten curriculum, is child-centered and provides additional time for emotional, social, intellectual and physical growth. The children in this program will attend MPS kindergarten the following fall. For information call 923-5070 or go to http://midps.org/kdg.

MPS High Schools Honors Recognitions!

Our high schools recently held their honor roll recognition assemblies.

H. H. Dow High School

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>217/296</td>
<td>73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>246/346</td>
<td>71%</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>220/298</td>
<td>74%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>222/310</td>
<td>72%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Advisors: Mrs. Williams, Mr. Meitler
Advisors: Mr. Gehoski, Ms. Zimmer

Midland High School

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>197/354</td>
<td>56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>207/372</td>
<td>56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>191/320</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>239/333</td>
<td>72%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Advisors: Mrs. Bradfield, Mrs. Mahabir
Advisors: Mrs. Guzman, Mrs. Scott, Mr. Pawlak
Advisors: Ms. Clark, Mr. Babin
Advisors: Mrs. Albright, Mrs. Stearns

Congratulations to these hard working, high achieving students!

The fourth and final Our Schools for the 2015-16 school year was in yesterday’s Midland Daily News. Here is a link if you would like to check it out online:
http://midps.org/os2016-2
Also at this year’s Gerstacker Awards Ceremony on May 12, we celebrated our 42 certificated staff members who have or will be retiring this school year.

- Adan, Marilyn
  Midland High
- Babin, Jeffrey
  Midland High
- Brown, William
  Special Services
- Camilleri, Mark
  Midland High
- Collin, Viola
  MPS/MCEA
- Doke, Kirt
  Midland High
- Duso, Katherine
  Jefferson Middle
- English, Jon
  Midland High
- Erickson, Marie
  H. H. Dow High
- Flegenheimer-Riggle, Ellen
  Woodcrest/Plymouth
- Forgach, Mary Anne
  Carpenter Street
- Fredell, Mary
  H. H. Dow High
- Gilmore, Linda
  Midland High/Jefferson Middle
- Hammond, David
  H. H. Dow High
- Hayes-Cloyd, Verita
  H. H. Dow High
- Hocquard, Leanne
  Plymouth/Woodcrest
- Hollenbeck, Martyn
  Midland High
- Hollerback, Nancy
  Plymouth Elementary
- Inosencio, Gayla
  Carpenter Street
- Jacobs, Kristina
  Woodcrest Elementary
- Johnston, Bonita
  Midland High
- Kaiser, Deborah
  Chestnut Hill Elementary
- Kastl, Pamela
  H. H. Dow High
- Kempsell, Tracey
  Woodcrest Elementary
- Mahar, Deborah
  Northeast Middle
- McIntyre, Barbara
  Eastlawn Elementary
- McKenna, Brenda
  Plymouth Elementary
- Moeggenberg, Tracey
  Music Department
- Murray, Linda
  Midland High
- Neff, Carol
  Special Services
- Prunier, Crystal
  H. H. Dow High
- Showalter, Rebecca
  Juvenile Care Center
- Smith, Deborah
  Jefferson Middle
- Stevens, Roger
  Music Department
- Timm, Larry
  Jefferson Middle
- Townsend, Jeanne
  Midland High
- Trahan, Sue
  Northeast Middle
- Venman, Thomas
  Carpenter Street
- Wollner, Janet
  Music Department
- Wynne, Brian
  Jefferson Middle
- Yuill, Renna
  Chestnut Hill Elementary

Thank you MPS 2016 Retirees for your 1053 dedicated years of service to Midland Public Schools’ students and families! We will miss you!

Congratulations to Jefferson students: Debasmita Kanungo, Caleb Qiu and Debanshu Kanungo, who pitched their Ensure Robo+ plan at the Young Entrepreneurs Academy’s (YEA!) 2016 Saunders Scholars National Semi-Finals recently in Rochester, New York. This poised team competed among more than 80 teams from across the country. Congrats to Debasmita, Caleb and Debanshu for representing Midland Public Schools, the Midland Chamber of Commerce and the Midland Community so admirably. If you know of aspiring entrepreneurs who will be in 6th-12th grade for the 2016-17 school year, contact the Chamber at 839-9901 for more information about this great Young Entrepreneurs Academy (YEA!) Program!

A student group from Jefferson Middle School has been accepted to participate in a Harvard University research study on youth and STEM careers.

Participants will join a nationwide online learning community to use remotely controlled telescopes from the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics to investigate space and the technologies that operate the telescopes.

Midland High’s Max Dykuizen was a finalist at the recent DECA International Conference in Nashville, Tennessee.

He competed in Human Resource Management.

Congratulations, Max, on this great achievement!
MPS 2016 Saginaw Valley League Scholar Athletes and Teachers Celebrated at an Awards Banquet on April 27!

Congratulations to Dow High's Elizabeth Hoffman & Daniel Haines

Congratulations to Midland High’s Rebekah Walter and Evan Hasse

H. H. Dow High Great Lakes Bay Leadership Institute 2016 students:

Kofi Ofori-Darko - 12
Gabi Meitler - 11
Sarah Redman - 12

This is a one-year program focused on leadership skills, team building, legislative awareness, diversity education and community service. The celebration banquet was held April 14 at SVSU.

May Shining Stars ...

Mary Jo Griffin, Adams Elementary 3rd Grade Teacher

Tresca Parfeniuk, Siebert Elementary Paraprofessional

These dedicated, hard working MPS staff members will be recognized at tonight’s Board of Education meeting. Thank you, Mary Jo and Tresca, for going above and beyond to make MPS a better place for students!

135 Midland High Choir & Orchestra students traveled to the Detroit Opera House last Friday to see the student dress rehearsal of Mozart's "The Magic Flute." Thank you to the Michigan Youth Arts Council for providing a portion of the funding that made this trip possible.

For many students this was their first opera experience and for some their first live professional concert. It was a memorable day!

The following Midland High students competed against Dow High & Midland Academy at a pitch day at the Grace A. Dow Memorial Library on May 9. First round qualifiers were:

- Fresh Brush: Riley Rajewski, Dehlia Whitely, Emily Raab & Dalayne Ludwig
- Venturesway: Alex Englund, Caesar Nakasone, Evan Haase & Wyatt Walden

The Fresh Brush team won the "Every House Needs One" Award: The Venturesway team won the "Most Likely to be Bought by a Large Company" Award. Ariana Thorton's presentation of HandiHomes won the "Most Passionate" Award.

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H. H. Dow High’s Merchandising Management classes attended Pitch Day where they competed against Midland High and the Midland Academy. 27 teams competed and were narrowed down to 9 finalist teams. Dow High secured 7 of the 9 spots!!

Finalists were:

- MyVolunteer: Abby Carn, Alex Batha, Kayla Colton and Ashton Brooks
- Sock Monster: Brett Nowak, Reid Biddinger, Bailey Altman, Matt Bainor, Derek Weber
- Soil Moisture: Mike Most, Peter Caras, Linda Pavlok, Ashley Brenton and Matt Vickery
- Wod Automotive: Matt Laming
- Kold Koozie: Sean Pumford, J.J. Heronema, Charles Feichtinger, Cody Glazier, and Jon Baillargeon
- Rustic Suds: Christa Weckesser
- Sense of Defense: Jack Kivi, Pietro Fin, Ariana Hempfling, Annie Kidder and Sadie Eastman

Moving to the finals were 3 teams…ALL from Dow High!

3rd place was Rustic Suds: Christa Weckesser
2nd place was MyVolunteer: Abby Carn, Alex Batha, Kayla Colton and Ashton Brooks
1st place was Mike Most’s Soil Moisture: Mike Most, Peter Caras, Linda Pavlok, Ashley Brenton and Matt Vickery

Other awards earned by Dow High

- Most Pressing Need: Sense of Defense: Jack Kivi, Pietro Fin, Ariana Hempfling, Annie Kidder and Sadie Eastman
- Why Doesn’t this Exist Yet: Mike Most's Soil Moisture: Mike Most, Peter Caras, Linda Pavlok, Ashley Brenton and Matt Vickery
- Best Presentation: MyVolunteer: Abby Carn, Alex Batha, Kayla Colton and Ashton Brooks
- Biggest Local Impact: Wod Automotive: Matt Laming
- Can’t Believe You Pulled It Off: Sock Monster: Brett Nowak, Reid Biddinger, Bailey Altman, Matt Bainor, Derek Weber
- Most Influential: Beeyond Bees: Haylee Snyder, Hanna Johnson, Hannah Robison, Diana Camacho and Maddie Cifrluk

May 16, 2016

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H. H. Dow High is chosen as a 2016 Educational Excellence Award Winner for 3rd year in a row!

Congratulations to H. H. Dow High School and to Lisa Bonotto and Sarah Hechlik for being selected as 2016 Educational Excellence Award Winners for their 20-time Unit.

At tonight’s Board of Education meeting, representatives from MASB and SET SEG will present this prestigious award to Ms. Bonotto, Ms. Hechlik and Principal Kastl.

The mission of 20-time is to help students be future-ready by giving them…TIME. Based on the model initiated by companies such as 3M and Google, the basic premise of 20-time is to allow students 20% of class time to develop an outcome-based project around a theme of their choosing. The greatest goal of 20-time is to inspire drive, inquiry, creativity, innovation and autonomy both in and beyond the classroom environment. Through this project, students create their own questions, do their own research, reflect on their learning, form their own conclusions, then communicate and share this knowledge with others. Students are better critical-thinkers as a result of participating in 20-time. To prepare students for the 21st century workplace, we must teach students how to think and problem-solve on their own – 20-time supports this goal. It is such a powerful experience!

Midland Public Schools’ Flyer Board … Are you looking for great local summer camp opportunities for your son/daughter? Check out the Midland Public Schools’ Community Flyer Board on our website: http://midps.org/cf. There you will find camps like “Charge into STEM” for 3-5th graders hosted by the HH Dow High “The Charge” Robotics team, Aviation Camp at the Barstow Airport, GMCA Square One Trades Camp, and much, much, much more! Don’t miss your chance. Registration is limited for some of these camps. Check out our Community Flyer Board today!

Kudos to these MPS students who did great at the recent Business Professionals of America (BPA) National Competition

Midland High took numerous top 10 finishes

- Zachary Church, Mitch Gardner, Max Dykhuiizen, Ethan Bruce, Madison Roberts, Ashton Doyle, Carson Winter, Ethan Bruce (2nd place), Julia Quinn (2nd place)

H. H. Dow High

- Drew Hirselj placed 33rd in C++ Programming and Jarod Searle placed 22nd in Visual Basic/C# Programming

Midland High did very well at the recent Regional MITES (Michigan Industrial Technology Education Society) competition the first weekend in May.

Congratulations to Nick Berchert, Tyler Biggs, Shelby Cross, Kevin Volesky, Owen Ripke, Sam Vokal, Jacob Maschino who all came home with 1st place finishes. In addition, we had six 2nd-place finishes, three 3rd-place finishes, three 4th-place finishes, one 5th-place finish and two honorable mentions.

We wish these talented students all they best as they compete in the State Competition in Lansing!

“pearls” of wisdom …

Some wise thoughts from Booker T. Washington:

- “If you want to lift yourself up, lift up someone else.”
- “Character is power.”
- “Excellence is to do a common thing in an uncommon way.”
- “If you can’t read, it’s going to be hard to realize dreams.”