Thank You Midland Public Schools Board of Education!

January is School Board Recognition Month, a time nationally we take to salute the work of our school board members and to celebrate public education. Midland Public Schools' Board of Education members develop policies and make important decisions that help shape the future of our educational system. Please join us when you see a Board member in the community, at a school function/sporting event or in your neighborhood to say thank you for their service to MPS students, staff, families and community!

➔ Angela Brandstadt, President
➔ Pam Singer, Vice President
➔ Scott McFarland, Secretary
➔ Lynn Baker, Trustee
➔ Brad Blasy, Trustee
➔ Mary Fredell, Trustee
➔ Patrick Frazee, Trustee

FIRST Robotics Competition ~~ 2017 Season Kicks Off!

The fun & exciting 2017 FIRST Robotics Competition Season is underway! More than 600 high school students from the Great Lakes Bay Region were present at the local Kick-Off event as 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 Dow High Team 2619, The Charge, and the Midland High Team 5509, Like a Boss, represented Midland Public Schools.

The 2017 competition is called "FIRST Steamworks℠", where two Alliances of three robots each score points and prepare to take flight by building steam pressure, gathering materials to start the rotors, and boarding robots onto their ‘airships’. Steam pressure is represented by balls scored in the corner ‘steam boiler’ goal, additional gears are gathered & added so that the airship rotors can be turned and robots will climb ropes to attach to the airships at the end of the game. More information can be found here: [http://www.firstinspires.org/robotics/frc/game-and-season](http://www.firstinspires.org/robotics/frc/game-and-season)

A 2017 FIRST Robotics District Competition will be held at H. H. Dow High School March 23-25.

The Mackinac Center for Public Policy recently published its 2016 Michigan Public High School Context and Performance Report Card. Here are MPS high school results out of 639 high schools. Great job Chargers & Chemics!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>High School</th>
<th>Cap Grade</th>
<th>No.</th>
<th>%ile</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HH Dow High</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>95.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midland High</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>85.42</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Want more details, here is a link to their entire study: [https://www.mackinac.org/s2017-01](https://www.mackinac.org/s2017-01)
IMPORTANT FOR ALL MPS FAMILIES!

WANT TO KEEP GETTING TEXT AND/OR E-MAIL ALERTS ABOUT SNOW DAYS AND OTHER MPS NEWS?

IT IS VITAL THAT YOU TAKE A MOMENT TO READ THIS VERY IMPORTANT INFORMATION!

Midland Public Schools Parents:

Over the past year, the Federal Government has made some updates to the Telephone Consumer Protection Act. These changes affect our ability to contact you about non-emergency school-related information. For us to be able to send non-emergency information to your telephone, we must have your permission AGAIN. I apologize for this as I know that many of you gave us permission when we began using School Messenger a few years ago, but we are required to do so again.

Permission can be given through https://infocenter.schoolmessenger.com/

which is School Messenger's InfoCenter portal or InfoCenter app. This video, https://vimeo.com/173531877 will tell you how to get started.

If you are interested in receiving texts such as school closings, event cancellations, or building announcements, but haven't signed up in the past, please contact the main office at your student's school and ensure that they have your updated contact information. Once they have this information, it will be uploaded overnight to School Messenger. You will then be able to grant permission and select which types of notifications you wish to receive through the Info Center portal info above.

If you have more questions regarding this process, please review the FAQs located at https://sites.google.com/midlandps.org/mpstech/faq/schoolmessenger

If we haven't provided an answer that you need, please reach out to me at dziedzicda@midlandps.org and we will get an answer for you.

Thank you for taking the time to help us strengthen our communication with you!

David Dziedzic
Director of Technology, Midland Public Schools
989.923.5127 phone, dziedzicda@midlandps.org

Congratulations to our January Shining Stars:

Mary Sanborn, Siebert Kindergarten Teacher
Kelli Van Wert, Chestnut Hill Paraprofessional

These dedicated, hard working members of the MPS team are being recognized at tonight's Board of Education meeting. Thank you Mary & Kelli for going above and beyond to make MPS a better place for students!

Please keep the Shining Star nominations coming in. We hope you will take a moment to let us know why you think an MPS team member is a Shining Star! Here is a link to the nomination form: http://midps.org/shiningstarform

MPS has truly amazing community partners!

Here is one great example:

As our high school students gear up for Final Exams, did you know the Grace A. Dow Library has

* Teen Study Week at the Library January 17-22
* Cram Night at the Library (teens only) on Sunday, January 22 from 5:30-8:00 (School ID is recommended). Pizza, snacks and drinks will be provided. Wow!

Call the Youth Services Department for information (837-3466)

Thank you Grace A Dow Library!
January 16, 2017

Congratulations to HH Dow High Varsity Debaters

Austin Poon    Duncan Donahue

who competed in the Michigan Interscholastic Forensic Association’s State Debate Championship earlier this month and placed 3rd overall in the State. Wow!

Congratulations also to the DHS Novice Team's 1st place finish at the recent Novice State Championship.

Kudos to the Dow High Debate coach, Amy Bushey, and the student debaters for a great 2016-2017 Debate season!

For Veterans Day and over the holidays, the first and fourth grade students of Mrs. Lanphierd and Mrs. Schaffer, as well as fifth grade Student Leadership members from Siebert Elementary, wrote thank you letters to a Midland native serving in Greenland. We recently received messages back from the service member and the students were incredibly impacted by seeing firsthand the impact their kind actions can have. The service member was thankful for the time and thought that was put into the letters. The students got together to take a group photo and record a Happy Holidays video. Since then, Mrs. Schaffer’s class sent more letters to their new friend, and he was again incredibly grateful and sent another photo of his growing wall of letters. This has been an amazing learning experience for the students to do good for another person and feel validated by their efforts.

2017-2018 Midland Public Schools’ Kindergarten Enrollment

If you have a child who will be 5 years of age on or before September 1, 2017, your child is eligible to attend kindergarten. Parents of incoming kindergarten students are invited to attend a parent orientation meeting in your local school attendance area:

Kindergarten Orientation Dates and Times

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adams</td>
<td>Tues., Feb. 7</td>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>923-6037</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPS Preschool at Adams</td>
<td>Mon., Feb. 6</td>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>923-6037</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carpenter</td>
<td>Tues., Feb. 7</td>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>923-6411</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chestnut Hill</td>
<td>Tues., Feb. 7</td>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>923-6634</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastlawn</td>
<td>Tues., Feb. 7</td>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>923-7112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plymouth</td>
<td>Tues., Feb. 7</td>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>923-7616</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Siebert</td>
<td>Tues., Feb. 7</td>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>923-7835</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woodcrest</td>
<td>Tues., Feb. 7</td>
<td>6:00 p.m.</td>
<td>923-7940</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Wow ...

2017 KIDS’ DAY at the Midland Mall

Saturday, January 21 from 10 am to 4 pm

We hope you will stop by the Midland Public Schools’ tables at this year’s Kids’ Day at the Mall. Come and see our displays and visit with MPS Administrators at this fun event!

Wow ...
A wonderful opportunity for some very talented Midland Public Schools’ student musicians to work with a world-class conductor

On January 6, students from H.H. Dow High School—Austin Burlew, Samuel Chauvette, Samantha Damocles, Danielle DeVine, Jaydon Dingman, Rebecca Haines, Nathaniel Kalantar, Naoki Kihata, Rebecca Kowalczyk, Ethan Poupart, Madeline Poupart, Shiva Sreeram, Jacob Thomas, Casondra Vlasak, David Wang—and two students from Jefferson Middle School—Kirsten de Ruiter and Caleb Qiu—traveled to the Flint Institute of Music to participate in Mid-Michigan Band and Orchestra Day hosted by the Flint Youth Symphony and Flint Youth Wind Ensemble.

The students spent the day rehearsing, working in sectionals, attending workshops, and watching a faculty recital. Their day culminated in a performance of the Finale of Symphony No. 2 by Sibelius at The Whiting under the direction of Enrique Diemecke. Maestro Diemecke is currently the director of the Flint Symphony Orchestra, Bogotá Philharmonic, and Buenos Aires Symphony. He was formerly the director of the National Symphony of Mexico and the Montpellier National Philharmonic Orchestra.

**STEM in action at Plymouth Elementary!**

Ms. Greskowiak’s 3rd Grade class was busy studying the laws of force and motion with the help of parent volunteer, Tina Rhoton. By building snowball catapults, students built and launched marshmallow snowballs towards a target in an activity to help reinforce the concept of friction (drag). The students also created parachutes for Santa to drop presents down the chimney.

**2017 Booster Bash — March 24, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.**

Thoughts from Martin Luther King, Jr.:

“I have a dream that my four children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character.”

“We may have all come on different ships, but we’re in the same boat now.”

“All labor that uplifts humanity has dignity and importance and should be undertaken with painstaking excellence.”