CONGRATULATIONS TO THIS YEAR’S GERSTACKER AWARD WINNERS!

The 62nd Annual Gerstacker Awards for Excellence in Teaching Ceremony was held on May 11. In addition to the four teachers who received the Gerstacker awards, those who have 25 and 30 years of service with MPS and those who are retiring this school year were also honored. We want to thank our retirees for their combined 305 years of service for MPS students!

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

As you may have seen, our final Our Schools for the 2016-17 school year was an insert in Saturday’s Midland Daily News.

Here is a link if you would like to check it out on-line:

https://goo.gl/znsGMx

Our 2016-17 Retirees were also honored at Thursday’s Gerstacker Ceremony. Those in attendance from left to right: Susan Arent, Donald Demko, Sherry Goff, Jane Greenhoe, Barbara Jacques, Kandis Pritchett, Brenda Saunders, Claudia Warren, Patrick Welter. (2016-17 retirees not in attendance: Rebecca Faust, Michael Jarema, Suzanne Ostahowski, Mary Ellen Trombley) Best wishes to all of our 2016-17 MPS retirees!
Investigating Earth’s Skies

On Saturday, May 6, eleven students from Northeast Middle School and two students from Midland High launched a weather balloon into the stratosphere.

Students prepared for the flight while attending meetings that began in September in both schools. Dr. Dennis Klipa, Jackie Klipa, and Will Halphen volunteered many hours mentoring the students through projects that included soldering electrical circuits, exploring Arduino programming, and learning about wireless technologies while preparing for this culminating STEM project, the launch of the weather balloon.

This year’s launch occurred in Edenville where teachers Brian Brown, Carman Kessler, and Bernadette Wood, Northeast club advisors, congratulated the students as the balloon successfully rose into the windy morning sky carrying two student-prepared payloads that included Amateur Radio tracking equipment and GoPro cameras.

The balloon’s flight path was then tracked via computer and cell phone technology as the teachers, students, parent volunteers, and several amateur HAM radio operators trekked to the projected recovery site near Breckenridge.

The balloon travelled nearly 100,000 feet above the earth before bursting due to atmospheric changes. Students were then able to retrieve the balloon from a farmer’s unplanted corn field. The burst balloon, as described by the students, looked like “cooked spaghetti noodles and smelled like burnt rice.”

Data retrieved from these payloads includes measurements of its altitude and velocity during flight, temperatures from within and outside of the payloads, measurements of various wavelengths of light, as well as atmospheric pressure readings.

Pictures of the trip retrieved from the GoPro cameras, as well as the data, will be reviewed at the final meetings of the year.
Midland Public Schools
Inspiriting Excellence

Dow High DECA recently returned from the International Conference in California and achieved outstanding results. The team of Adi Middha, Lauren Woods and Andrea Patermina were 1st place in the world for their Leadership and Teamwork event; Varun Shanker, Caroline Szabo and Sophi Pennex were in the top ten in the world for the School-Based Enterprise competition; Sean Pumford was in the top ten in the world for his occupational test and top 20 in the world for his case study. The Dow High DECA team ran an MDA 5K and received the Most Spirited Award. Congratulations to all DHS DECA members that attended!

Friday evening, May 5, thirteen Midland High Chemics entered projects in nine different categories in the MITES (Michigan Industrial Technology Education Society) regional competition. Their woodworking, metal, mechanical drawing, plastics (and more) projects resulted in two fourth place wins, one third place win, five second place wins, and first place wins by Steven Swerdan, Damascus Shaver, Evan Cobb, Kelly Kadlec, Collin Monville, and Nick Berchert. The Chemics had a good showing and qualified for States this past weekend. We can’t wait to hear how they did!

Thank you to the hundreds of Midland Public Schools’ students that attended the Harry Potter Carnival and Quidditch Tournament that was hosted by the MHS Student Council and Student Leadership class on May 2. The event was held to memorialize and honor the life of Ms. Jenifer Sisco, an MHS mathematics department head and teacher that passed away from cancer after a long, courageous battle with the disease. The carnival was a collaborative effort by many MHS clubs and organizations. The following groups helped to make the carnival a success by hosting the following activities:

- MHS Drum majors had a ring toss game
- Photography Club had a booth where carnival attendees could pose for Harry Potter-themed photos, complete with photo props
- National Arts Honor Society students shared their artistic talents by painting faces
- Robotics Club created and sold Harry Potter House buttons
- Gay Straight Alliance had a Sorting Hat booth created by Kaitlyn Roland (created sorting hat, table decorations, and nearly 300 mini cupcakes)
- Kiva sold Sno Cones
- MeisterSingers sold Butter Beer
- Drama members volunteered to assist wherever needed

MHS Staff members that attended, assisted and challenged the students to a Quidditch game. The event was a great success! The proceeds will benefit the American Cancer Society’s Relay for Life Team Blonde Jen, Ms. Sisco’s team. Thank you to everyone that attended the carnival!

In early May, Adams’ FIRST Lego League (FLL) and Jefferson’s FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC) teams held an open house and information session for interested students and parents allowing them to learn more about the FIRST program. The session was well attended and the students had fun interacting with the FRC (High School), FTC (Middle School) and FLL (Elementary School) level robots.
Congratulations to the Midland High Meistersingers and Dow High Chamber Singers who scored the highest ratings out of the approximate 40 choirs that attended the recent Michigan School Vocal Music Association State Choral Festival. Way To Go!

Both Midland High School and Dow High School will offer six weeks of Summer School via online courses June 20-July 27, 2017. The cost is $150 per course ($175 for out-of-district students). Summer school can be a timely, effective and persuasive motivator for students who need to earn credits. To register online, go to https://new.midlandps.org/pages/district/summer-program/. For more information, please contact Academic Counselors Chris Sabourin (923-5120), Christa Felker at DHS (923-5462), or Lee Leffingwell at MHS (923-5267).

Looking for camps and other fun things for your child to do this summer? Check out the MPS Flyer Board! Now that spring break is behind us, we have flyers coming in every single day. https://new.midlandps.org/pages/community/community-flyers-2/

You are cordially invited to join us as we say Goodbye to the greatest school in the world!

Carpenter Street School
Open House Celebration

Friday, June 9
5-7 pm

(come and go at a time convenient for you)
You will be able to tour the building, meet up with old friends, and take pictures.

There will be refreshments and a photo booth. Enjoy the memories!

Thank you to Steve Flaminio and Deb Reardon for their dedicated years of service on the H. H. Dow High All Sports Boosters. They are “officially” graduating from Dow High parent involvement. Best wishes!

May 15, 2017

Midland Public Schools
600 East Carpenter
Midland, Michigan 48640

MPS Website:
www.midlandps.org

Twitter:
@MichaelSharrow2
@MidlandPS

YouTube Channel:
http://midps.org/youtube

Community Flyers:

Wise words to ponder:
“Keep your eyes on the stars, and your feet on the ground.”
—Theodore Roosevelt

“Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have with you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world.”
—Harriet Tubman

“IT IS NOT IN THE STARS TO HOLD OUR DESTINY BUT IN OURSELVES.”
—William Shakespeare