Student Protest During National Anthem

Our Special Communique last week in regard to some of our students intending to take a knee during the national anthem in protest of racial inequality at our annual football game between our two high schools has drawn criticism from some of our residents on both sides of this national issue. I feel it necessary to clarify the District’s statement.

The District’s statement reflects the only position a publically-funded school district can take based on the laws, regulations and policies of our country. Board of Education policy is required to reflect State of Michigan and federal law.

For decades school districts have set expectations that students stand during the national anthem and Pledge of Allegiance. If students chose not to stand, they were allowed not to stand, and that choice is protected by our legal system. The expectation of standing at attention during our country’s national anthem has always been considered patriotic. Nothing about that has changed today.

As a public school district, we are bound to respond the same way. We encourage students to stand during the national anthem. If they choose not to, we must allow them that choice. In fact, the law expects us to protect their right.

Last week, as an educational organization, high school administration and I met with the students who are organizing this event. We encouraged the students to consider that the national anthem and/or the high school football game may not be the best venue and to think about possible other options for their public protest. It is the District’s belief that the issue students are attempting to draw attention to - racial inequality - may be blurred or confused by them being perceived as unpatriotic. We will continue to meet with the students this week.

No matter the decision these students make in regard to their kneeling in protest during the national anthem, the District will honor their choice as we are required to do by law.

The District expects all citizens and students to follow the law of our land. The District will have extra law enforcement attend the game and sincerely hopes their presence will not be needed.

It is best if we all allow civil discussion to occur and respect each other’s rights. Over the last few days some have chosen to send uncivil, and in some cases even threatening, messages to our students and administration. This must stop.

Let’s not allow the discord of this issue to detract from our two outstanding football teams, bands and support groups. Please join me in returning the attention and discussion where it deserves to be.

Please call or email the Superintendent’s office if more clarity is needed.
Friday was an exciting day at MPS!

Friday morning we hosted a special thank you celebration event at Central Park Elementary for our wonderful community partners who have supported MPS in so many varied ways throughout the years. More than 100 guests joined us.

In addition, late Friday morning our wonderful corporate partner, The Dow Chemical Company, hosted more than 400 MPS high school students at Central Auditorium for an exciting WE event. WE is a movement that brings people together and gives them the tools to change the world. I am sure we will be hearing more about this exciting, “making doing good, doable” initiative in the near future.

Congratulations to our October 2017 Shining Stars:

✦ Kim Wood, Siebert Elementary Administrative Assistant
✦ Barb Warczinsky, MPS Retiree and 2016-17 long-term Substitute Teacher

These hardworking members of the MPS team will be recognized at tonight’s Board of Education meeting for making 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

Does your child currently receive Free or Reduced breakfast/lunch?

Have you filled out a new application for the 2017-18 school year?

IF NOT, THIS WEDNESDAY—OCTOBER 18, YOUR CHILD’S ACCOUNT WILL BE RESET TO FULL PAY!

A new application is required EVERY YEAR!

If you have questions, please contact your child’s school office or the Chartwells team at 923-5062.

Click here for breakfast/lunch menus, nutritional and allergy information: http://midlandps.nutrislice.com

Dow High’s FIRST Robotics Team 2619 at STEM Festival—Dow High’s Robotics Team 2619, The Charge, partnered with Robotics teams from Bullock Creek & Freeland to host FIRST Robotics activities at the Great Lakes Bay STEM Festival at Delta College on October 7 & 8. Hundreds of middle school and elementary school students learned about robots & engineering though interactive games and activities.
Congratulations to **Siebert Elementary** for exceeding their goal for their “Get Fit For FUNds” Dance-a-thon. Mr. Schroll allowed the kids to turn him into an ice cream sundae to celebrate their success. The Midland Community Center Zumba instructors and Lou E. Loon joined the dance party on October 6th. The students all had a great time!

On October 12 **Dow High students Alex Doty and Anna Blasy and Midland High students Matthew Waier and Alex McMath visited Plymouth Elementary.** These high school students, who are both athletes and musicians, discussed the importance of cooperation in sports and music. They focused on the importance of teamwork and communication.

The visit was prompted by the elementary students' PYP study of how teamwork is essential to achieve a common goal.

The second MPS **Our Schools newsletter** of the 2017-18 school year was an insert in Saturday’s **Midland Daily News.** Please note this edition included a four-page State of the District. If you didn’t have a chance to check it out in the **MDN,** here is a link:  [https://new.midlandps.org/wp-content/uploads/OurSchoolsOctober2017.pdf](https://new.midlandps.org/wp-content/uploads/OurSchoolsOctober2017.pdf)

We hope you will take a moment to peruse the great things happening at Midland Public Schools!

**Wise Thoughts to ponder:**

“Always do your best. What you plant now, you will harvest later.” — Og Mandino

“Don’t judge each day by the harvest you reap but by the seeds that you plant.” — Robert Louis Stevenson

“With every deed you are sowing a seed, though the harvest you may not see.” — Ella Wheeler Wilcox

---

On October 12 **Dow High German Club met on Tuesday for a combined celebration of Oktoberfest, National Day of German Unity (October 3) and German-American Day (October 6).** Over thirty students turned out and enjoyed soft pretzels, sausage, root beer and chocolate. With authentic Oktoberfest music playing in the background, students had a fun, relaxing time celebrating German culture.

**FALL PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES**

- **High School conferences:** October 18 (Students have full day of school. P-T conferences are in the evening only.)
- **Middle School conferences:** October 19 (Students have full day of school. P-T conferences are in the evening only.)
- **Elementary conferences:** November 9 (Elementary students have HALF day of school. P-T conferences are held in the afternoon and evening.)