The **2018 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 120-pound 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 with more than 85 students & mentors. "FIRST POWER UP”—the 2018 competition—finds our teams trapped in an 8bit video game. Teams use power cubes to gain control of the playing field and then climb a tower to defeat the boss. A 2018 FIRST Robotics District Competition will be held at H. H. Dow High School on March 22-24. The event is free and the public is welcome. More information can be found here: [http://www.firstspires.org/robotics/frc/game-and-season](http://www.firstspires.org/robotics/frc/game-and-season)

**Have you checked out the COMMUNITY FLYER PAGE** lately? Fun seasonal opportunities for students and families come in all the time. Right now there is info on … *The Tennis Center’s “Tennis, Pizza and a Movie”* and much more! [https://new.midlandps.org/pages/community/community-flyers-2/](https://new.midlandps.org/pages/community/community-flyers-2/)

**2018-19 INFO FOR OUR YOUNGEST LEARNERS**

**4-Year Olds**

**IB PYP Preschool:** This program is for four-year-old children and includes a child-centered, play-based curriculum designed to be flexible to meet the individual needs of the child. The framework aligns with the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme, which is part of all MPS elementary schools. This preschool program is tuition-based. The Preschool Orientation meeting, for next year's 4-year olds, will be held on February 5 at 5:30 p.m. at Adams Elementary. For more info regarding the program, contact the Adams Elementary School office at 923-6037.

**Great Start Readiness Preschool (GSRP) is also for four-year old children.** GSRP preschool is part of the Regional Preschool Partnership, a collaboration of school districts and community-based providers who offer State-funded preschool services for qualifying families. The program is income-based. Children must meet Federal and State age and income requirements to be eligible for Head Start and Great Start Readiness preschool programs. Registration for the program has already begun. The link to register is: [https://michiganpreschool.org/](https://michiganpreschool.org/). For more details regarding this program, please contact Jolene Laetz at laetzja@midlandps.org or (989) 923-5070.

For more info on either of our 4-year-old programs, click here: [https://new.midlandps.org/pages/district/curriculum/preschool/](https://new.midlandps.org/pages/district/curriculum/preschool/)

**5-Year Olds**

**Young 5’s Kindergarten or Traditional Kindergarten.** Click here for info: [https://new.midlandps.org/pages/district/curriculum/kindergarten/](https://new.midlandps.org/pages/district/curriculum/kindergarten/)

**2018-19 MPS Kindergarten Orientation Tuesday, February 6:** 5:30—Adams, Ch. Hill, Plymouth, Siebert, Woodcrest; 6:00—Central Park

Contact Jolene Laetz laetzja@midlandps.org or (923-5070) for information on any of these programs.

**KIDS DAY AT THE MALL IS THIS SATURDAY—JANUARY 20. STOP AND CHAT WITH MPS PRINCIPALS BETWEEN 10-4:00.**
We hope you feel like you’ve received lots of “bang for your Bond buck” BECAUSE WE SURE DO!
Since the 2.95 mills bond passed in February of 2015 by MPS voters, here’s a glimpse of what has been accomplished, what is currently underway or about to begin and what is yet to come.

**PROJECTS ALREADY ACCOMPLISHED**

- Replacement of Middle School boilers
- 1:1 student technology purchased across district
- Asbestos abatement at closed and renovated buildings
- Demo of closed buildings and removal of modulars
- Central Park Elementary School completed and open
- Central Auditorium renovated and open
- Plymouth Elem. Phase 1 and 2 renovations complete
- Woodcrest Elem. Phase 1 and 2 renovations complete
- Midland Community Track resurfaced
- Buses purchased
- Secure entries/cameras at all schools
- Lockers at Northeast
- And much more!!!

**PROJECTS CURRENTLY UNDERWAY/ABOUT TO BEGIN**

- Plymouth and Woodcrest Media Centers currently under construction in former gyms
- Woodcrest Elementary Phase 3 addition
- District printer/copier purchase
- Asbestos abatement at Siebert and Chestnut Hill
- Chestnut Hill and Siebert Elementary Schools renovations/addition
- Plymouth makerspace furniture purchase

**PROJECTS YET TO COME**

- Adams Elementary renovations/addition
- Jefferson & Northeast Middle School renovations
- H. H. Dow & Midland High School renovations
- Midland Community Stadium renovations
- Technology/Buses/Furniture purchased as needs warrant
- Infrastructure updated as needed
- And more!

It is important to note that when we refer to Phase 1 and 2 renovations to our schools, the scope of work is substantial! Construction includes HVAC, secure entrance, renovation of office to accommodate secure entry, security cameras, windows, flooring, paint, communications, improved traffic flow, cubbies/lockers, masonry, construction of new gymnasium and cafeteria, renovation of the old gym into a modern media center and the old media center into a STEM makerspace.
A major part of our STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) Strategic Plan, is the implementation of Project Lead the Way (PLTW) curriculum. PLTW empowers students to develop and apply in-demand, transportable skills by exploring real-world challenges.

**ELEMENTARY:** PLTW is fully implemented at Central Park with curriculum pilots underway in several other elementary schools. Here are photos of PLTW Unit 1.2 Light: Sun Moon and Stars in action at Central Park:

**Activity 1- Sun trackers:** We built a sun tracker and tracked the sun throughout the day to see how the sun moves over time and then checked out the Sundial in one of the STEM outdoor learning areas.

**Activity 2—Exploration of the moon:** We looked at the moon using the app: Moon Globe and we looked at how the moon reflects the sun’s light so we can see the moon and the different phases of the moon.

**Activity 3- Exploration into stars:** The students made a constellation to explore how we can see stars and why we can not see stars during the day (due to the sun).

**Activity 4- Mystery Beads:** The students got 4 mystery beads and they explored different ways to see what would make the beads change colors. Some of the ways they tried were using a flashlight, no light, hot and cold water, hair dryer, covering them with paper, singing to the beads, and the sun.

**Activity 5:** As a small group, the students created a structure for the playground that would keep Suzy, Mylo, and Angelina safe from the UV rays.

**SECONDARY:** MPS is excited to offer new middle and high school PLTW STEM classes beginning in the fall of 2018. These courses help complete the K-12 STEM course pathways of computer science, engineering, and biomedical science that began in our elementary schools. These new courses will empower students to lead their own discovery, own their own learning, and begin to clarify interests and passion for further STEM learning and careers while providing engaging experience that build knowledge and develop technical, academic, and transferable skills. Through PLTW's inquiry approach, students will deeply understanding authentic world challenges and work to develop solutions.

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**Middle School STEM Innovations Courses**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>CSI Medicine &amp; Space</th>
<th>Code Wizards</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Green Design</td>
<td>Robo Builder</td>
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**High School PLTW Courses**

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<tr>
<th>Computer Science Essentials</th>
<th>Human Body Systems</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction To Engineering</td>
<td>Principles of Engineering</td>
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<tr>
<td>Engineering Capstone</td>
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More information about these exciting new STEM-based middle and high school classes can be found …

- In the **2018-19 Secondary Course Selection Guide**, which will be released tomorrow (January 16)
- From your child’s counselor
- At upcoming middle and high school parent nights
- In upcoming Superintendent Communiques

*(Please note: These new secondary courses are pending Board approval at tonight’s Board of Education meeting.)*

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**Large shipments of PLTW Launch materials have arrived for pilots in our remaining five elementary schools. Intensive PLTW staff training is being held during today’s professional development day with piloting of the PLTW units in classrooms soon.**
MPS RESULTS—DECEMBER 19 DISTRICT 1 DECA CONFERENCE HELD AT SVSU —

81 members of Dow High DECA attended the District 1 DECA Conference. Dow High had an all time record performance with 33 members receiving test medals, 61 members receiving role play medals and 71 members moving on to the State Competition to be held in March.

26 members of Midland High’s DECA attended the District 1 DECA Conference.

More than half of the MHS DECA students qualified to compete at the State Competition in March.

Congratulations to both Dow High and Midland High DECA members for representing MPS so admirably.

Best wishes at States in Detroit in March!

After a lesson on Martin Luther King Jr., Mrs. Florey and Mrs. Julien’s classes at Chestnut Hill brainstormed things they could do to make the world a better place. They wrote their ideas on posters and then hung them in the hallway. An announcement was made to invite others to add their ideas. Chestnut Hill is proud of all chipmunks who have added their ideas. With their thinking and creativity, our world will be a better place!

Saturday, January 6, the Midland High School Chapter of Business Professionals of America competed at the regional competition at Central Michigan University. Forty-Four Midland High School students qualified for the State competition which will be held in March in Grand Rapids.

Congratulations to all who competed, and best wishes to those going on to States!

Congratulations to our

January 2018 Shining Stars

- Jodi Winkel-Cook, Speech Language Pathologist
- Renee Sieggreen, Accounts Payable Office Professional

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

Thoughts to ponder by Henry Ward Beecher:

“The art of being happy lies in the power of extracting happiness from common things.”

“Gratitude is the fairest blossom which springs from the soul.”

“We never know the love of a parent till we become parents ourselves.”

“The soul without imagination is what an observatory would be without a telescope.”