Bridge — The Center for Michigan each year announces their State of Michigan Academic State Champs. This year they looked at academic growth a little differently—student progress from 3rd to 8th grade of the more than 500 public school districts in the State of Michigan.

When the study looked at Midland Public Schools (7,647 students),

- 3rd graders were, on average .9 grade levels above grade level, which puts MPS in the 90th percentile.
- 8th graders were, on average 1.2 grade levels above grade level, which puts MPS in the 95th percentile.
- Overall growth: students gained 5.4 grade levels from 3rd to 8th grade, which puts MPS in the 80th percentile.

Midland Public Schools has much to be proud of as we look at the results of this study, which revealed that MPS 3rd graders average nearly one full grade level beyond state expectation. MPS 8th graders average 1.2 grade levels beyond expectation. The rate of growth (5.4 years in a 5 year span) is better than 80 percent of schools in the State of Michigan. Midland Public Schools’ finished 12th according to Bridge criteria. We thank our staff, students and families for their hard work and dedication to excellence! If you would like to look at the entire study, click on this link: [http://www.bridgemi.com/talent-education/academic-state-champs-poverty-doesnt-always-predict-school-success-michigan](http://www.bridgemi.com/talent-education/academic-state-champs-poverty-doesnt-always-predict-school-success-michigan)

### District (income rank: 100 is high, 0 is low)  
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>3rd Grade</th>
<th>8th Grade</th>
<th>Grades gained</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midland Public Schools (86th percentile)</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>9.2</td>
<td>5.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Midland High learned last week that they have been selected to receive a **2018 Education Excellence Award** from the SET SEG Foundation for their incoming 9th grade summer math program—**Chemic Challenge**.

From the hundreds of entries they received this year, SET SEG selected MHS’s Chemic Challenge as one of the 25 awardees for 2018. At the March 19 Board of Education meeting, MHS will receive a $2,500 check, a trophy, and an “Education Excellence Winner” road sign. Great job, Chemics!

The **2018 H. H. Dow High Athletic Hall of Fame** dinner and induction ceremony took place on Friday, February 2. At the conclusion of the dinner and induction ceremony, inductees were able to view their Hall of Fame Plaques that are now displayed outside of the gym. At half-time of the basketball game, inductees were acknowledged and presented a special Hall of Fame gift and received a standing ovation from the crowd.

**Class of 2018 Inductees**

- Roy Burks 1971
- Scott Alexander 1977
- John Carras 1984
- Jackie Goulet McGee 1986
- Kristy Heydanek McGuire 1990
- Brian Leigeb 1997
- Ernie Malzahn, Coach 1962-1996
- Frank Altimore, Coach 1967-2003

Congratulations, 2018 H. H. Dow High School Hall of Famers!
Midland High art teacher, Kelli Bishop, recently entered five pieces of artwork in the Region 12 Michigan Art Education Association juried art show. Of the five pieces, Erin Vokal's sculpture was chosen as a winner of District 12. Her aluminum sculpture is a realistic sheep titled, "A Shepherd's Follower." Her work will be moving on with five other pieces to the state level to compete in another juried show for the top 100. All work from District 12 will be on display in the mezzanine in the Bay City Library until February 24.

Mid-Year Parent-Teacher Conferences are in the evenings the first week in March:

Elementary Schools: Tuesday, March 6
High Schools: Wednesday, March 7
Middle Schools: Thursday, March 8

Contact your child’s school for additional information.

This year’s Midland Area Community Foundation Scholarship application window closes March 1 at 5:00 p.m. There are over 250 scholarships available for students.

Check them out! http://www.midlandfoundation.org/apply-for-a-scholarship

Seeking a job with the same hours that your child is in school? MPS is looking for Substitute Bus Drivers and Paraprofessionals in our Transportation Department.

Requirements:
⇒ High school diploma or GED
⇒ Pass criminal background check
⇒ (Bus drivers) Pass pre-employment drug test, DOT physical and back assessment
⇒ (Paras) Pass a physical with a back assessment and WorkKeys testing

We Provide:
⇒ Flexible schedule
⇒ AM & PM routes available
⇒ Paid Training (no experience needed)
⇒ Potential for regular run
⇒ Starting driver wages based on experience ($13-$16.46)

Apply on-line at https://new.midlandps.org/pages/district/human-resources/ or contact the MPS Transportation Department at 923-5041.

MPS Social Media Opinion Poll … Please give us your thoughts???

As you may know, MPS uses twitter and YouTube mainly to communicate via social media. We would like some input from you, our stakeholders, about where you would like to see us go from here.

Click on the link below to give us your thoughts and preferences about how MPS should communicate via Social Media.

Let us know your thoughts about social media before March 1, 2018. Here is the link:

https://goo.gl/forms/rIxizpcpSBTV3H9E3
Central Park Elementary had an energetic and impactful assembly by the Lion Heart Experience group, directed by Mr. Vercellino. Students and staff at Central Park were challenged to re-think the way they use words and actions toward others. The message was passionate and inspiring to all participants. The hope is that everyone walked out of the assembly seeing themselves and others in a new and positive way. In the words of Mr. Vercellino, “Our life is unfolding and yet to be told. We all need to have the heart of a Lion.” Please view the link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?

This year’s Gerstacker Ceremony is Monday, April 30, at 2:00 pm at Central Auditorium

On Tuesday, January 30, 2018, the Jefferson Middle School Combined 7/8th Grade Choir, under the direction of Megan Farison, performed the National Anthem at the opening night of the 2018 Dow Tennis Classic. This marks the 30th year of women’s professional tennis in Midland.

Northeast’s Science Investigation Showcase
On February 2, Northeast 6th grade science students hosted their first Science Investigation Showcase. In weeks prior, each young scientist came up with an investigative question, designed a fair investigation (including variables, a way to collect data and decided on a fair amount of data to collect) and carried out the investigation. While conducting the experiments, the scientists recorded data from multiple trials. With the data, the scientists each created a graph; a claim with evidence and scientific reasoning; and, finally, each 6th grader created a presentation, which was shared with parents and other interested adults who attended the Showcase.

H. H. Dow High School’s 50th Anniversary Celebration
Sunday, March 18 <> 1-4:00 p.m.

Have you checked out the MPS COMMUNITY FLYER BOARD lately? Fun seasonal opportunities for students and families come in all the time. Right now we have flyers posted from the The Rock, Greater Midland Community Center, Tennis Center and many more. Click here to visit the MPS Flyer Board: https://new.midlandps.org/pages/community/community-fliers-2/
Congratulations to the over 70 H. H. Dow High band and orchestra students who participated in Solo and Ensemble on Saturday, February 10! Students earned a rating of one to five based on their overall musical performance. Dow High students earned 53 first division ratings and 14 second division ratings. All students who earned first division ratings are now eligible to participate at State Solo and Ensemble on March 17 in Lapeer.

In this photo are two of the students who received first division medals: Julia Fu and Jillian Lew.

Congratulations to all 70 Dow High Chargers who participated!

On Valentine’s Day, five different teams of MHS Meistersingers went all over town delivering singing Valentines to homes, schools and businesses. This has been an annual event for over 30 years and helps to raise money for the group’s spring trip. Kudos, Meistersingers, for sharing your musical message of love and friendship all over Midland!

Adams’ 3rd Grade students recently enjoyed an inquiry into STEAM Poetry using Metaphor. Mimi Herman from the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts taught Mary Jo Griffin’s class a poetry lesson which used metaphor to connect Poetry and Science. Together, the class and Ms. Herman wrote a poem connecting Landforms and Furniture entitled “Furnitureforms.”

Three & Four-Year-Old Programs for 2018-19

3-Year Olds: This tuition-based program is for three-year old children and includes a child-centered, play-based curriculum designed to be flexible to meet the individual needs of the child.

4-Year Olds: IB PYP Preschool: This tuition-based 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.

4-Year Olds: Great Start Readiness Preschool (GSRP) 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 Great Start Readiness preschool programs. The link to register is: https://michiganpreschool.org/

For more info on either of our 4-year-old programs, click here: https://new.midlandps.org/pages/district/curriculum/preschool/ or contact Jolene Laetz at laetzja@midlandps.org or (989) 923-5070.

Thoughts to ponder by former United States Presidents:

“Be sure you put your feet in the right place, then stand firm.” — Abraham Lincoln

“The boisterous sea of liberty is never without a wave.” — Thomas Jefferson

“It is far better to be alone, than to be in bad company.” — George Washington

“Efforts and courage are not enough without purpose and direction.” — John F. Kennedy