On February 21, I had the honor of attending a Legislative Advocacy Day in Lansing representing Midland Public Schools. The MASA Legislative Day included a briefing on current state legislation and issues related to public education, presentations on hot topics and a training session on how to effectively engage legislators. We had a chance to meet with our local State representatives, State senators and committee members to discuss current bills, and participate in various steps of the legislative process, including a visit to the Senate and/or House floor and attend a committee meeting.

Thank you to everyone who responded to our recent “MPS Digital Presence” opinion poll.

Of the 110 responses we received:

✔ Facebook was the most widely used social media platform.

✔ More than 2/3 would not utilize closed captioning if we added it to future MPS-TV & YouTube videos.

✔ Respondents were split about adding an audio feature to some publications.

✔ #MPSinspiringexcellence was the hashtag chosen by almost 60% of respondents, which we have already begun to use.

✔ Over 60% of respondents scored MPS with a 6 out of 10 or higher when asked if MPS is successful in our current social media communication.

✔ In addition, we received lots of very useful comments, which will be used as we make future decisions about our social media direction.

**BUT FOR NOW ... MPS USES TWITTER AND YouTube as another way to communicate. Check them out!**

@MidlandPS http://midps.org/youtube

The robots are coming from all over Michigan this week … Don’t miss it!

Midland FIRST Robotics District Competition is this week March 23-24 at H. H. Dow High School

Both MPS award-winning high school robotics teams will be competing…

DHS’s Team 2619 The Charge

MHS’s Team 5509 Like a Boss

The 2018 competition is called “FIRST POWER UP™” and it finds our teams trapped in an 8-bit video game. On the video game-themed field, two alliances of three robots each gather power cubes to score points and gain control of the field and then climb a tower to defeat the boss at the close of each match. For more information go to: http://www.first-glb.org/

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME!!!!!!!**

We hope elementary and middle school parents will bring their children to see and experience firsthand the fun and excitement at these Robotics District Championships.

**ENTRY AND PARKING ARE FREE!!!!!!!**

The 2018-19 MPS School Year Calendar DRAFT is on the agenda for tonight’s Board of Education meeting.

If the calendar is approved by the Board this evening, please watch for it to be posted to the MPS website tomorrow!
Congratulations to the Midland High staff involved in the Chemic Challenge summer math enrichment program! MHS is receiving a 2018 Education Excellence Award at tonight’s Board Meeting.

Watch for more details in next Monday’s Communique.

March 19, 2018

Congratulations to the Midland High staff involved in the Chemic Challenge summer math enrichment program! MHS is receiving a 2018 Education Excellence Award at tonight’s Board Meeting.

Watch for more details in next Monday’s Communique.

Congratulations to the 71 H. H. Dow High DECA Club members who competed last weekend at the State Conference in Detroit. Thirty-four medals were earned for testing and role plays and 38 students received State Finalist medals. Representing Dow High at the international competition in Atlanta, Georgia are Iris Funaioli, Lauren Woods, Olivia Miller, Sophia Pennex, Zach Nelson, Adi Middha, and Mitchell Hayes.

Congratulations to all 71 students who participated in the State conference!

Best wishes to Iris, Lauren, Olivia, Sophia, Zach, Adi and Mitchell in Atlanta!

Congratulations to the Dow High Model United Nations team that placed second overall at the Oakland University conference this past weekend. Additionally, several students won individual awards:

- Ashwin Saxena and Aaron Weldy earned "Excellent Delegate".
- Kevin Kraef won "Best Delegate".
- Will Adams and Duncan Donahue won "Superior Delegate" and Lillian Pressnell was awarded the gavel for her committee.

Woodcrest Students Spread Kindness! Fifth Graders attended the County Wide Non-Violence Conference last month and returned with some great ideas to promote non-violence. They had their peers share positive “Tweets” to bring awareness of cyber bullying. Then, they reinstated the Wolverine Buddy Program to help guide students needing a buddy or assistance with conflict resolution on our playground. They encouraged their peers to put out posters, Post-It Notes, and kind words to build people up and not put others down.

As a part of their Creativity Activity Service project for the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme, four seniors from Dow High (Maddie Dauenhauer, Hannah Jackson, Natalie McGuire, and Adrienne Ora) organized a middle school spelling bee held on Saturday, March 10 at Central Auditorium. Eleven students from Jefferson and Northeast participated, and seventh grader Javonn Jarvis of Northeast was the champion of the bee. From November through March the Diploma Candidates held spelling practices with the middle school students at both schools with the goal of developing literacy and public speaking skills in the community. They were advised by Jennifer Coppens at Dow High and worked with Tonya Lambert at Jefferson and Marybeth Rodriguez and Jennifer Jaster at Northeast.

Midland Public Schools’ has been recognized by the United Way of Midland County as a 2018 Company that Cares. This is a wonderful honor that MPS is proud to receive.

We would like to congratulate and send our kudos to Siebert Principal and MPS United Way Coordinator, Paul Schroll, selected as United Way of Midland County’s 2018 Torch Bearer Recipient, which recognizes a campaign volunteer who demonstrates a true passion for sharing the Live United message.

Roses to the cast, crew and advisors of last week’s great production of Aladdin Jr. at Jefferson Middle School.

MPS COMMUNITY FLYER BOARD — Spring and summer clinics, camps and fun events are coming in daily. Check them out!

Congratulations to the **24 Midland High students** who participated in the SVSU Math Olympics on Friday. As a team, these students earned 3rd place in the Level 1 competition, 1st place in the Level 2 competition, and 2nd place overall. The Chemics also won many individual awards. In the Level 2 competition, **Kenny Steinhilber** earned 1st place and **John Marinan** earned 3rd place. Honorable Mention awards were won by **Madeline Lang**, **Aidan Wilber-Gauthier**, **Kiah Heminghous**, **Charlotte Adrian**, **Ryan Hampton**, **Ashley Welsch**, **Preston Millward**, **Joshua Lang**, **Olivia Johnson**, **Nicholas Scott**, **Hadley Samaro**, and **Nathan Streitmatter**.

Recently, our **two middle schools** attended the Regional Science Olympiad tournament at Delta College. The middle schools in the Great Lakes Bay Region compete in 23 STEM events. Both teams had many reasons to celebrate.

**Jefferson Middle School Competitive** team earned top 1-3 scores in events such as Ecology, Microbe Mission, Solar System, Mystery Architecture, Disease Detectives, Road Scholar, Experimental Design and Thermodynamics.


Thirteen **Northeast Middle School** students along with advisors **Marissa Pool** and **Carman Kessler** travelled to Delta College February 24 to compete in the Regional Science Olympiad. Students met weekly beginning in November to either build models aligned to specific criteria and constraints or to prepare for written or performance task competitions. Students who placed in their events were: **Ethan Santos**, **Sofia Burdo**, **Rachel Cauchy**, **Ethan Klaffer**, **Will Kanar**, **Kellan Galloway**, **Sam Ringgold**, **Evelyn Moor**, **Trevor Hallberg**, **Lauren McGuirk** and **Adeline Doyle**.

Thank you **Paraprofessionals**!

This past week, Plymouth Elementary paraprofessionals were recognized for their hard work and dedication to the success of **Plymouth Pioneers**.

Congratulations to the **Jefferson TechnoHuskies members** (Joseph He, Margarett Hitt, Omer Khan, Luke McMahan, James Mowry and Boaz Qiu) who competed at the FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC) North Super Regional Championship in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, where they played the Relic Recovery challenge with high school and middle school teams from 11 different states. At the end of qualification matches, the team finished in 18th place. This unique championship experience expands the team’s knowledge of science and technology and was a high note of their FTC season. **Great job Techno-Huskies! We are proud of you!**

Students from Mrs. Royalty's **Computer Tech** class and Mrs. Williams' **Health Care & Technology 1** class participated in the 4th annual Professional Interview Day at Dow High School. Each student participated in two individual interviews as well as a group interview. Students showcased their skills and experience in the professional portfolios they created in class.

Spring break begins Friday, March 30 and ends Friday, April 6.

Classes resume Monday, April 9.

The Administration Center is closed March 30 for the holiday.

During spring break Admin Center staff are working 4-10’s from 7:00-5:00 (April 2-5) with the building closed on Friday, April 6.

We hope you have a relaxing, fun spring break!
Nicole Fisher’s 5th Grade Students at Siebert Elementary recently studied conflict and revolution. These photos are questions the students came up with on their own without prompting. They truly show the power of the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme creating global citizens that can think critically about their world.

Direct quote from the IB PYP website:
“Through its inquiry-led, transdisciplinary framework, the PYP challenges students to think for themselves and take responsibility for their learning as they explore local and global issues and opportunities in real-life contexts.”

Ms. Fisher’s student questions are clear indications of our MPS elementary students’ global, critical thinking!

H. H. Dow High’s Music Booster Club presents Jazz and More Saturday, April 14 at the Midland Country Club featuring the Dow High jazz bands, choir and orchestra. Tickets are $35 and available at www.dowhighmusic.org.

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: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc-wtU4BkZJbAvbjS-yypDip0DsOBrYbJLAI3gq86uA/viewform?c=0&usp=mail_form_link

Wise thoughts to ponder about RESPECT:

“Knowledge will give you power, but character respect.” — Bruce Lee

“Respect for ourselves guides our morals, respect for others guides our manners.” — Laurence Sterne

“The bond that links your true family is not one of blood, but of respect and joy in each other’s life.” — Richard Bach