Congratulations to Midland High School for being named a 2018 Education Excellence Award winner by MASB and SET SEG. Midland High’s Chemic Challenge summer math program was chosen as one of 25 awardees out of the more than 300 projects submitted. Midland High received their award from Mr. Scott Fritz from SET SEG and Mr. Matt Showalter from MASB at the Monday, March 19, Board of Education meeting. Congratulations Chemic Staff. We are proud of you!

Spring Break starts this Friday—March 30 and goes through Friday, April 6. Classes resume Monday, April 9. Because of Spring Break, our next Superintendent Communique will be published Monday, April 9.

Midland Public Schools is proud to have six young women who were recent recipients and three receive honorable mentions of National Center for Women & Information Technology Aspirations Awards for their aptitude and interest in computing, leadership, good academic history and plans for post-secondary education.

Emma Brown, MHS
Gwynne Ozkan, MHS
Holly Stauffer, MHS

Katherine Perry, MHS
Olivia Johnson, MHS
Sreya Manchiraju, DHS

Honorable Mention Awards went to:
Brylee Pavlik, MHS
Emma Jamrog, MHS
Maya Etienne, MHS

Congratulations. We are proud of you!

Congratulations to Juvenile Care Center Teacher, Wendy Thomas, March Excellence in Education Award recipient from TV 5 and the Michigan Lottery

Each week the Michigan Lottery and TV 5 recognizes an outstanding K-12 teacher who makes a significant impact in the lives of Michigan students. These educators represent the very best of our State’s public school system. Selection is based on these characteristics:

Excellence, Dedication, Inspiration, Leadership, Effectiveness

In addition to a personal monetary award, $500 has been awarded to JCC for her classroom. Here is the link to watch: https://www.fox47news.com/news/excellence-in-education/midland-educator-wins-excellence-in-education-award

is a great communications tool for you to connect with me. Every message comes to my desktop. Either I or a member of our staff will do all we can to reply to your message the next work day. Click here to connect with me: https://etc.midlandps.org/connect/form.php.
Midland Public Schools is opening an Early Childhood Center at Carpenter Street School. This renovated Center will be the educational site for our youngest learners!

**3-Year-Old Program**
- **Half-day (am or pm)**
- **Full-day**
- **5-days per week**

Competitively priced tuition-based program that includes a child-centered, play-based curriculum designed to be flexible to meet your child’s individual needs.

**Two 4-Year-Old Programs from which to choose**
- **IB PYP Preschool:** This tuition-based program includes a child-centered, play-based curriculum with a framework that aligns with the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program, which is part of all MPS elementary schools.
- **Great Start Readiness Program (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. Children must meet Federal and State age and income requirements to be eligible for GSRP preschool programs. The link to register is: [https://michiganpreschool.org/](https://michiganpreschool.org/)

Click here for MPS Preschool information: [https://new.midlandps.org/pages/district/curriculum/preschool/](https://new.midlandps.org/pages/district/curriculum/preschool/) or contact Jolene Laetz at (989) 923-5070 or laetzja@midlandps.org.

**KINDERGARTEN** — Will you have a 5-year-old by September 1? If so MPS has two great Kindergarten options for you to choose from. Both offer learning activities that are research-based. Our classrooms are nurturing, multi-sensory environments that support learning. Teachers provide instruction in phonics, reading, writing, social studies, math, science and more all within the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme framework that focuses on the development of the whole child as an inquirer.

**Young 5’s Kindergarten**
- If your child has a late birthday or may need an extra year of social or emotional growth before traditional Kindergarten, this may be the perfect program for your family.
- Meets at the new Early Childhood Center in Carpenter Street School
- No fee to attend

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

For more info on our Young 5’s Kindergarten, contact Jolene Laetz at (989) 923-5070 or laetzja@midlandps.org. For info on Traditional Kindergarten contact your child’s school (school phone numbers are on page 8 of this Communique).

Before and After School Care is available at all of our elementary schools, including the new Early Childhood Center.
Midland High Robotics Team Wins Team Spirit Award

The Midland High School Robotics Team 5509, ‘Like a Boss.’, competed at the Gaylord High School FIRST Robotics Competition on March 16 & 17 with 39 other Michigan teams. Team 5509 ‘Like a Boss.’ won the Team Spirit Award, which celebrates extraordinary enthusiasm and spirit through exceptional partnership and teamwork furthering the objectives of FIRST. During the competition ‘Like a Boss.’ was selected to be part of the 6th place Alliance for playoffs where they advanced to the quarterfinals with alliance partners Team 5086 ‘Cadillac Connectors’ and Team 6020 ‘John Glenn Robotics’. They fought hard to advance to the semifinals but ultimately fell short. This team competed at Districts this past weekend at Dow High School.

At the Monday, March 19, Board of Education meeting, Dow High Principal, Dr. Steve Poole, introduced Ms. Cammie Hall, Teacher and Journalism Advisor. Ms. Hall and three of her Journalism students, Maggie Duly, Regan O’Brien, and Ben Zeitler presented information on these Charger Journalism Programs:

- DHS Student News broadcast
- Fragments Literary magazine
- Video streaming
- Conferences, camps, awards
- Update and Update Online
- The Charger Yearbook

Thank you Dr. Poole, Ms. Hall, Maggie, Regan and Ben for your great presentation!

Congratulations to Midland High School’s chapter of Business Professionals of America. They competed in the BPA 46th Annual Michigan Association State Leadership Conference in Grand Rapids on March 15-18. An amazing 25 students topped their competition and qualified to represent MHS and the state of Michigan at the BPA National Leadership Conference in Dallas, Texas, in May! Way to go, Chemics! Special thanks to their advisers, Andrea Jozwiak and Elaine Mahabir, for guiding these Chemic leaders!

Congratulations to Dow High’s Maggie McMahon who took first place in the SVSU Write Like Roethke Contest with her poem “Fear of Infinity is Infinite.” Maggie read her poem and accepted her prize at the Theodore Roethke Poetry and Arts Festival this past weekend in SVSU’s Marshall Frederick’s Sculpture Museum. Congratulations Maggie!

MPS COMMUNITY FLYER BOARD — AMAZING spring and summer clinics, camps and fun events are coming in daily. Check them out! https://new.midlandps.org/pages/community/community-flyers-2/
Midland High Robotics Team Wins Midland District Robotics Event and Industrial Design Award

Dow High Robotics Team Wins Midland District Chairman’s Award and Event Finalist Award

The Midland High School Robotics Team 5509, ‘Like a Boss.’ and the H.H. Dow High School Robotics Team 2619 ‘The Charge’ competed at the Midland FIRST Robotics District Competition on March 23 & 24 with 38 other Michigan teams. The 2018 competition is called “FIRST POWER UP” and it’s a high-energy, 80’s video game-themed competition. 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.

Team 5509 ‘Like a Boss’ won the Industrial Design Award Sponsored by General Motors, which celebrates form and function in an efficiently designed machine that effectively addresses the game challenge. Midland High ‘Like a Boss’ finished the qualification matches ranked 4th and was the first overall pick joining Team 5603 ‘Rise of the Warrior Bots’ from Bay City Western in the number 1 Alliance. The Alliance was rounded out by Team 7213 ‘GladWINites’ from Gladwin High School. Together they fought hard to advance through the finals to win the District event, setting high scores along the way. Midland High’s team is in its 4th year and is coached by MHS Math Teacher, Ben Younkin.

Team 2619, The Charge, won the Midland District Chairman’s Award for the 3rd consecutive year. The Chairman’s Award is the most prestigious award at FIRST and it honors the team that best represents a model for other teams to emulate and best embodies the purpose and goals of FIRST. The Chairman’s Award looks for sustained impact over many years. Dow High’s Team 2619 was also part of the number 3 Alliance, which advanced to become the event Finalist - coming in 2nd place overall along with Team 5712, Hemlock’s Gray Matter and Team 6093, Sandusky’s Unplugged. Dow High’s team is coached by DHS Math Teacher, Sean Murray and this is The Charge’s 11th year of competition.

The next competition for both teams will be the Michigan State Championship State competition at Saginaw Valley State University which takes place April 11-14.

THANK YOU to the Dow High staff and students for their support and flexibility, which helped make this event possible. Thanks also to our partner host teams – 3770 from Bullock Creek, 703 from Saginaw and 4819 from Mt. Pleasant, and 5166 from Freeland!

During the Midland District Competition Dow High student, Rebecca Kowalczyk, was selected as the Dean’s List District Winner, and she is now considered a State-Semifinalist. The Dean’s list award recognizes students for their direct contributions and impact on others – exemplifying leadership and commitment on the team and in their community. Rebecca will be considered for a FIRST Dean’s List Finalist award at the Michigan State Championship.

Also during the Competition, Dow High’s Team 2619 mentor, Annette Murray, was selected as the District Volunteer of the Year for her impact and tireless efforts on behalf of more than 50 FIRST Robotics teams in the Great Lakes Bay Region.

Congratulations to both of our MPS Robotics Teams on their incredible accomplishments!

Best wishes at SVSU in April!
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.

Other Midland Public Schools Substitute Employment Opportunities
⇒ Guest-Teacher Info: Click here: https://www.edustaff.org/
⇒ Guest-Paraprofessional Info: Click here: http://midps.org/subparas

Get started this year <> Enjoy your summer off with your child(ren) <> Start the new year picking up teacher or para sub jobs!

On Friday, March 16, fifth grade students, parents, community members and elementary Spanish teachers gathered together to participate in the MPS 5th Grade Fiesta Hispana. Over 150 5th graders and their parents from elementary schools all over Midland were able to enjoy an evening of interaction and exploration of Hispanic cultures. Twenty-eight Midland area residents representing nine Hispanic countries volunteered an evening to share a little of their culture with the students and parents in attendance that night. Students had the opportunity to speak Spanish with native speakers and learn about many different cultures through artifacts and experiences shared by the presenters. Students also had the opportunity to sample food from many countries, make a craft and explore Hispanic music and dance through Zumba. As a kick-off to this year’s Fiesta Hispana, all 5th grade students attended a performance by the Argentine group, Che Malambo, at the Midland Center for the Arts on Monday, March 12th. This was a very exciting addition to the event this year. Many volunteers contributed to the success of the evening including parents, high school students and community members.

The memorable event was organized by MPS elementary Spanish staff.
Thanks to Midland Public Schools’ Voters, bond work continues … ON BUDGET, ON SCHEDULE, ON TRACK!

Siebert Elementary’s construction is in full swing! The site for their new bus loop (in the front) and the new gym and cafeteria (behind the building) change every day! The land was cleared, footings have been poured and soon block walls will begin to be built. It is so exciting to watch the progress continue!

At Woodcrest Elementary, the newly renovated media center is taking shape. The library shelves were delivered and assembled last week, and the process of placing over 10,000 library books on the shelves has begun! Students and staff are excitedly looking forward to the arrival of new media center furniture in the upcoming weeks and the completion of this fantastic project!

During spring break contractors will erect a construction fence that will become the school’s new makerspace, where hands-on STEM experiments can be performed and teams of students will have space to work on collaborative projects.

Michigan Association of School Administrators is a respected organization that provides a wide variety of resources for school administrators in the State of Michigan. The MASA Leader is a magazine this organization publishes three times per year. From MASA’s website: “This journal style publication shares articles designed to help MASA members discover best-practices, as well as showcase innovation already happening in MASA member districts.” We are proud to say, Midland Public School’s Central Park Elementary and our STEM Strategic Plan is a feature article in the Spring 2018 edition entitled, “STEM ‘Zips’ Forward with Innovative Thinking.” Here is the link: https://goo.gl/bukU2E. We hope you can take a few moments to take a look.

Congratulations to our March 2018 Shining Stars

Cassie Stauffer Honson, Paraprofessional, Plymouth Elementary

Tyler Hubbard, Industrial Education Teacher, Jefferson and H. H. Dow High

These hardworking members of the MPS team were recognized at the Monday, March 19, Board of Education meeting for making MPS a better place for students. Congratulations, Cassie and Tyler!

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-wIU4BkZJbAvbS-yvplDipo_DsGl8brYbLA3q8j86uA/viewform?c=0&w=1&usp=mail_form_link

Volunteers are needed to support 5th grade students working on their IB Primary Years Programme (IB-PYP) Exhibition Projects.

If interested or for more information, please contact Rene’e Urlaub, MPS Volunteer Manager at 923-5034 or urlaubrs@midlandps.org.
On Thursday, March 22, Plymouth students participated in the second annual IB Primary Years Programme Exhibition. This event was held in the new addition of the school and students and families were able to circulate, talk with students about their passions, and enjoy a cookie and drink afterwards. Through this process, students inquired about a subject in small groups with the assistance of a community mentor. While preparing their Exhibition project, students explored the essential elements of the Primary Years Programme of knowledge, skills, attitudes and action. Students exhibited all of the learner profile attributes throughout this journey. On Exhibition night, students had the opportunity to make their learning visible for others through demonstrations and poster boards. As parents, teachers and community members left, they were asked to give feedback. Comments included

- "This was fantastic! Can't wait for next year!"
- "I loved how the kids just began talking about their research and the enthusiasm they showed. Very cool experience!"
- "The projects were so diverse in subjects! So neat to see all the kids' interests!"

Last week, over 80 United Way Young Leaders from the community spent their lunch hour reading with 2nd graders at Plymouth Elementary. The volunteers shared a pizza lunch and book with their student. Afterwards, students were able to take the book home to share with their families. Second grade classrooms were also given copies of the books to have in their classrooms. Not only did the students enjoy this one-on-one time, the Young Leaders were able to experience the importance of mentoring.

Students from Chestnut Hill and Plymouth had the opportunity to virtually interview a software engineer from SpaceX as part of their fifth grade exhibition research. They had many great questions about rockets, space, Elon Musk and the education needed to be hired into the rocket industry. Thank you Mr. Rings (MPS alumnus) for taking the time to teach our students about SpaceX and what you do. You have inspired a new generation of scientists and engineers! Congratulations to the Dow High wrestling team for earning Academic All State Honors for the 2nd year in a row with a GPA of 3.6775, which included the top 14 GPA’s on the team. We also had our first All State Wrestler since 2014. Brennan Doyle went 4-2 at States finishing in 5th place at 160 lbs. Congratulations Charger Wrestlers!

Congratulations Yvette Kalinowski, 8th Grade History Teacher from Northeast Middle School, recently named a 2018 Humanities Educator of the Year by Delta College.

High school graduation ceremonies will be held at Dow Diamond on Thursday, May 24.
- **Dow High Graduation at 4:30 pm**
- **Midland High Graduation at 7:30 pm**

The plan is to rotate the time of the school graduation ceremonies each year and continue to evaluate the graduation processes. Additional details will come your way very soon.

(In case of inclement weather requiring the graduations to be held indoors, the ceremonies will be held in each high school’s respective gymnasium at 7:00 p.m.)
Congratulations to the H. H. Dow High students who participated in the SVSU Math Olympics on March 16. Congratulations to these students who placed 1, 2nd, 3rd or received Honorable Mention.

LEVEL 1: Jashui Desai, 1st; Andrew Zhou, 2nd; Sean Anderson, 3rd; Honorable Mention: Min-gi Jo, Jared Poliskey, Ashwin Saxena

LEVEL 2: Stephen O’Donnell, 2nd; Honorable Mention: Gage Bunker, Jocelyn Hu, Irshad Hussain, Nathaniel Kalantar, Nicholas Konovalenko, Sasha Konovalenko, David Lin, Shiva Sreeram

Kudos to these Charger Math Olympians who earned 1st Place overall in this year’s SVSU Math Olympiad.

Many of Dow High’s 60 participants impressed their judges so much that they have earned nominations for the Michigan Youth Arts Festival:

- Julia Fu, Kimia Beigzadeh have been nominated to be in the Honors Band.
- Tia Li, Naoki Kihata, Nathaniel Kalantar were nominated to be in the Honors Orchestra.
- Emilia Teed, Hannah Jackson, Hannah Loiselle, Julia Fu were part of a flute choir that was invited to audition to be a featured ensemble.
- Tyler Conrad, Peter Redman, Jocelyn Cha, Vikram Vaddamani were part of a clarinet quartet that was invited to audition to be a featured ensemble.
- Julia Fu, Emilia Teed, Kimia Beigzadeh, Jocelyn Cha, Nathaniel Kalantar, Naoki Kihata were all nominated to audition to be featured soloists.

On March 13, Becky King took the Midland High IB Theory of Knowledge class to the Delta College library to do some scholarly research for their extended essays. The Delta College library staff delivered instruction about research in the library and with databases. Students used the remainder of the time to research and get assistance from the reference librarians. They also went on a scavenger hunt in the library and engaged in "brain breaks" at a jigsaw puzzle station. It was a great day!

Congratulations to the 60 Dow High School band and orchestra students who participated in State Solo and Ensemble in Lapeer on Saturday, March 17. Students performed their prepared solos or small ensembles in front of a judge, and they were judged on an overall musical performance. In the case of sophomore, junior and senior soloists, they were also judged on their ability to play scales and sight-read music they had never seen before. Thirty-seven events earned a first division rating, four events earned a second division rating and one event earned a third division rating.

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SPRING BREAK Hours Administration Center:
The Admin Center is closed March 30 for the holiday.
During spring break Admin Center staff are working 4-10’s from 7 am to 5 pm (April 2-5) with the building closed on Friday, April 6.

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Midland Public Schools
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Midland, Michigan 48640
MPS Website:
www.midlandps.org
Twitter:
@MichaelSharrow2
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YouTube Channel:
http://midps.org/youtube
Community Flyers:
https://new.midlandps.org/pages/community-flyers

Admin 923-5001
Adams Elementary 923-6037
Central Park Elem. 923-6836
Chestnut Hill Elem. 923-6634
Plymouth Elementary 923-7616
Siebert Elementary 923-7835
Woodcrest Elementary 923-7940
Jefferson Middle 923-5873
Northeast Middle 923-5772
H. H. Dow High 923-5382
Midland High 923-5181

MPS Board of Education Members:
- Pam Singer, President
- Angela Brandstadt, Vice President
- Patrick Frazee, Treasurer
- Scott McFarland, Secretary
- Lynn Baker, Trustee
- Brad Blasy, Trustee
- Mary Fredell, Trustee
Email: board@midlandps.org

"The beautiful spring came; and when Nature resumes her loveliness, the human soul is apt to revive also."
Harriet Ann Jacobs