An Invitation ...
Please join us for the 63rd Annual Gerstacker Awards Ceremony Monday, April 30, at 2:00 pm at Central Auditorium

This ceremony celebrates the presentation of the Gerstacker Awards for Excellence in Teaching and honors retiring MPS teachers and administrators for their years of service.

Reception immediately following Ceremony

These awards are made possible through the generous support of the Carl and Esther Gerstacker Donor-Advised Fund at the Midland Area Community Foundation

Midland High’s Drama Department will be performing “The Addams Family” April 19, 20 and 21 at Central Auditorium at 7:00 p.m.

The 2018 Michigan testing window opened last week. Great job to the students in Grades 5, 8, 9, 10, 11 who took SAT, PSAT, Math, ELA, Science and Social Studies tests last week.

This week, Grades 5, 8 and 11 will continue their testing journey.

As we look ahead, Grades 3, 4, 6, and 7 are scheduled to begin

Siebert 5th Grade students recently had fun learning about how fresh water is distributed on our planet and connected it to their exhibition central idea: understanding how scientific knowledge can help to make informed decisions. Nicole Fisher (5th grade Siebert teacher) collaborated with Mark Hackbarth (Jefferson science teacher) to get the supplies for this very relevant activity!

Tickets are $12 for adults and $8 for students and are on sale this week during the lunch hours as well as at Live Oak Coffeehouse and at Village Green. Don’t miss this fun performance!

MPS Connect 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.
The Midland High School Robotics Team 5509 ‘Like a Boss.’ and H.H. Dow High Robotics Team 2619 ‘The Charge’ competed at the Michigan FIRST Robotics State Championship this past weekend. The competition took place at Saginaw Valley State University with the top 160 high school robotics teams in the State of Michigan.

After all qualification matches on their field Team 5509 ‘Like a Boss.’ was chosen to be part of the 5th ranked Alliance, joining Alliance captain Team 4776 ‘S.C.O.T.S Bots’ from Howell High School. The Alliance was rounded out by Team 2832 ‘The Livonia Warriors’ from Livonia High School. Together they fell short in their first match, but made a comeback winning the second match with a backup robot from Team 5712 ‘Hemlock’s Gray Matter” out of Hemlock High School who came in for Team 2832 ‘The Livonia Warriors’ due to problems with their robot. In the end they ultimately lost a close tie breaker match and did not move on to the semifinals. The Midland High School Robotics Team finished the season ranked 102 out of 508 teams in the state.

Team 2619, The Charge, finished qualification matches with 4 wins and 8 losses and won the Imagery Award on their field. This award celebrates attractiveness in engineering and outstanding visual aesthetic integration of machine and team appearance. The H.H. Dow High School Robotics Team finished the season ranked 116 out of 508 teams in the state. During the State Championship, The Charge also gave presentations for the Engineering Inspiration Award and the Chairman’s Award competitions.

H.H. Dow High student, Rebecca Kowalczyk, was selected as one of Michigan’s 15 Dean’s List Award Finalists! She will go on to compete for the Dean’s List Award at the World Championship. The Dean’s list award recognizes FIRST Robotics students for their direct contributions and impact on others – exemplifying leadership and commitment on the team and in their community.

Finally, Governor Rick Snyder presented an award to both teams together to celebrate that FIRST Robotics programs have been developed at all four levels within Midland Public Schools – FIRST Lego League Jr (FLL Jr), FIRST Lego League (FLL), FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC), FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC). This means that FIRST Robotics programs are available for early elementary through high school age students within the district. MPS was one of 40 public school districts honored with this award in Michigan.

Congratulations to both of our MPS high school robotics teams on an incredible 2018 Competitive Season! You represented Midland Public Schools admirably! WE ARE PROUD OF YOU!

Online registration for the Midland Public Schools’ 2018 eLearning High School Summer Session is now live.

- All courses are provided online.
- Students should obtain course recommendations from their counselor prior to enrollment.
- There is a limit of one course enrollment at a time.
- Best results are obtained when students work a total of 45-60 hours on their course.
- Course support will be available at Midland High and Dow High.
- Students must take all tests and exams on-site at either MPS location. No assessments will be available to students at home.
- Enrollment Deadline: July 26, 2018; Coursework Dates: June 18-August 23, 2018
- Cost: $150 for MPS students and $175 for out-of-district students

Here is a link to more info about the MPS 2018 eLearning Summer Session: https://new.midlandps.org/pages/district/summer-program/
Employee Wellness at Midland Public Schools

This year our staff got involved in a new initiative. Associate Superintendent, Janet Greif, chaired a brand new committee—the MPS Employee Wellness Team. Current members of the Team are John Volmering, Krista Tate, Kelsey Williams, Maryanne Lipovsky, Cindy Greskowiak, Dave Kobel, Kim Welter, Pete Welter and Linda Swanson. The Wellness Team’s Facebook page is Health Happens @ MPS. Here is the link: https://www.facebook.com/groups/135558290596614/. We have about 200 members following the page so far.

A couple of major initiatives related to the district wellness initiative were:

In the fall, Mike Schafer from the Greater Midland Community Center brought the InBody 570 to each of our schools and the Administration Center. The InBody 570 is an instrument that provides exact measurements and data analysis of an individual’s body composition including muscle mass, water, body fat pounds and percentage, body mass index, basil metabolic rate, visceral fat and more. Mike did an analysis for every employee who chose to have the scan done.

This winter, Rhonda Jones, BNS and MESSA Health Promotion Consultant, conducted “lunch and learns” at every building in the district. MESSA provided lunch for staff members and Rhonda presented valuable information on the many services provided by MESSA, the District’s employee health insurance provider.

Here are a few examples of our schools who took the MPS wellness initiative a step further:

- **Adams Elementary** staff members participated in a 50-day wellness challenge. Groups of three competed with and collected points based on healthy diet choices, water consumption, and exercise. Thirty staff members completed the challenge! A celebration lunch awarded prizes to each group. The best part was developing new healthy habits to continue after the challenge. We are Adams Strong!

- After stepping on the InBody 570 many staff members at **Chestnut Hill** were motivated to improve their health. A wellness challenge was created and 34 members were placed into groups. Each day members had a checklist they tried to reach. These items varied from getting 8 hours of sleep to exercising 30-minutes a day. After each week, points were tallied and recorded on a board that hung in the staff lounge. After eight weeks of the challenge, the winners were awarded a Fitness Snap and a water bottle, both provided by Rhonda Jones at MESSA. As a result of all their hard work, Chestnut Hill had a group of staff members walking in the Loons Pennant Race. The next Chestnut Hill challenge is the 30-day walk & water challenge where staff members are challenged to walk more and drink more water each week!

- **Central Park Elementary** did a 40-day Wellness Challenge in February and March. A total of 13 teams participated in the challenge. The teams consisted of teachers, administrators, and paraprofessionals. Our 1st place individual point winner was Sarah Haskett, 2nd place was Amanda Lamont and 3rd place was Kara Eddy. This challenge was a great opportunity to engage in team building and health and wellness activities.

- **Plymouth Elementary** started out 2018 with a focus on creating healthier lifestyles. 40 staff members participated in the InBody 570 analysis, which helped staff set some health goals for themselves. On Mondays and Wednesdays, you can find several staff members working out in the gym. In February, 24 staff members joined a 30-day fitness challenge that focused on creating healthier eating and exercise habits. Teams journaled and messaged their way through the challenge, creating not only new habits, but new friendships. A healthy breakfast celebrated the challenge completion. 13 staff members are going to take part in the Dow Challenge Walk/Run team challenge on May 19th, continuing their quest for healthier lifestyles!

KEEP UP THE GREAT WORK, MPS TEAM!
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!

Several students in Ms. Lauer’s class at Siebert Elementary are hockey players and Ms. Lauer is a hockey mom. This past Thursday, their class wore their jerseys as they took action to honor the Saskatchewan junior hockey team in support of “Jerseys for Humboldt Day!” to honor those involved in the April 6 bus/semi-truck accident.

Way to go, Siebert Bulldogs!

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/

Regional CTE Program is hosting an open house and flower sale

The Agriscience CTE program at Coleman is hosting an open house and flower sale that is open to the public. The open house is Saturday, May 5 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

There will be tours of the barn and greenhouse as well as food and activities in the classroom. Dow High’s Julia Sanderson is FFA president through the Coleman Chapter and has requested we help them get the word out about this event to “reach out to as many people as we can … to help interest today’s youth in agriculture.”
Congratulations to our April 2018 Shining Stars

Miriam Bloom, Paraprofessional, H. H. Dow High Media Center

Melissa Toner, District Media/Instructional Technology Specialist

These hardworking members of the MPS team will be recognized at the Monday, April 16, Board of Education meeting for making MPS a better place for students.

Congratulations, Miriam and Melissa!

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://new.midlandps.org/shining-star-nomination-form/

THANK YOU TO ALL OF THE MPS VOLUNTEERS!

As we celebrate National Volunteer Appreciation Month, please allow us to again say thank you to our more than 3,300 MPS volunteers. Thank you for sharing your dedication, skills, knowledge, time and heart with our students and staff.

If you have completed our United for Success application process and are not sure how you can help or what MPS volunteer opportunities are available, be sure to check them out by clicking here: https://new.midlandps.org/pages/community/volunteer-opportunities/

If you have questions or are looking for specific volunteer information, contact Renee Urlaub, MPS Volunteer Manager at 923-5034 or urlaubrs@midlandps.org.

wise thought to ponder ...

“Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement. Nothing can be done without hope and confidence.” — Helen Keller