2018 A. H. Nickless Innovation Award Awards

On Saturday, April 21st teams from Midland High School placed first and third at the 5th annual A.H. Nickless Innovation Awards competition.

Seniors Jerry Bringard, Emma Jamrog, Gwynne Özkan, and Preston Millward took first place with their smartphone app, Campus PASS. The app is designed to monitor students walking alone on college campuses and can contact local authorities automatically if the student is attacked. Each team member will receive a $5,000 college scholarship, and Midland High will receive a $20,000 STEM grant. The team was coached by computer science teacher, Robert Fox.

Seniors Corrine Dunsmore, Henry Kessler, Allison Gray, and Zach Servinksi took third place with an innovation called Thermo-Sense. This technology aims at reducing energy waste by monitoring rooms using thermal cameras and automatically shutting off power. Each team member will receive a $1,000 college scholarship, and Midland High will receive a $5,000 STEM grant. The team was coached by computer science teacher, Robert Fox, and mentored by William Halphen.

Teams began work on their projects in October 2017 and were chosen as finalists in November receiving a $1,000 grant to further develop their idea. From November through March teams built prototypes, prepared written reports, created business plans, and prepared presentations. This is the first year Midland High School has won the award. The presentations and awards ceremony were held at SVSU.

ENROLL NOW for Preschool … Classes are filling fast!

Midland Public Schools is opening an Early Childhood Center at Carpenter Street School for the 2018-19 school year. This renovated Center will be the educational site for our Preschool and Young 5’s Kindergarten programs.

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

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/
On Sunday, April 22, a Business Professionals of America (BPA) Community Night was held in the media center at Midland High School. The purpose of this gathering was to showcase the 21 MHS students who qualified for the BPA National Conference in Dallas, Texas, this coming May. Between the qualifying students, there were four team events and three individual events.

Whether it was a video shown, a presentation given, or a live scenario enacted, the student competitor(s) for each event competing showcased what exactly they do. The audience was made up of community members, parents, and teachers - and they were given the opportunities to ask questions. The National BPA President, Jon Perrault, was also in attendance, showing support to the MHS local chapter.

The members of the Water Warriors team include: Cara Bucci, Sophie Cai, Anjali Dash, Emily Gallant, Jaya Khot, Lucy Tang, Amelia Warner, Anise Wu (Head Coaches: Shrikant Khot, Ying Liu, Frank Gallant, Shana Bunker)

The Water Warriors’ team made the FIRST organization’s official Instagram. Check it out: https://instagram.com/p/BiE6sCClbsw/. During the FLL season, Water Warriors created and posted a YouTube video about their septic tank project: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WXK4EgmZkZO&feature=youtu.be.

The Dow High Robotics Team 2619, The Charge, presented a technical workshop at the FIRST Robotics World Championship in Detroit last week. This season students and mentors from The Charge designed, built and programmed new robot battery testing equipment and methods and then completed research using this new equipment. More than 120 people attended the workshop to learn about the new testing equipment and methods, with many teams signing up to receive more information and be part of building a broader battery performance database. The research report can be found on the team’s website: Battery Report. The Charge was also able to attend other workshops, meet with FIRST sponsors and industry leaders at the Innovation Faire and attend some of the FRC, FTC, and FLL competitions.

Congratulations to Dow High’s Iris Funaioli, Grace Sobeck, Sophi Pennex, Kayla Colton, Lauren Woods, Olivia Miller, Nick Lipsitt, Shane Oskvarek, Zach Nelson, Adi Middha and Mitchell Hayes for their outstanding performance at the DECA International Conference held in Atlanta, Georgia! Zach, Lauren and Sophi placed in the top 20 in the world for their events.

Great job H. H. Dow High DECA for a great season!
Arbor Day Presentation at Plymouth Elementary

Dow Gardens and the City of Midland did an Earth Day presentation with the fourth grade classes at Plymouth recently. They learned how to plant and take care of trees as well as lumbering in Midland. The program concluded with planting a crab apple tree.

Thank you to these great community partners!

Midland Fire Lieutenant Bob Arnold chats with Adams’ student, Jack Lipovsky. In partnership with the Midland Fire Department, Lieutenant Arnold visits monthly to share lessons on fire safety with students in grades K-2.

Adams Elementary — Earth Clean Up Day

Mrs. Newton’s first grade students and Mrs. Washabaugh’s fourth grade students took action and cleaned up trash on the Adams’ playground for Earth Day. Both classes are learning about “Sharing the Planet” and the fourth grade focused on the Central Idea that “People make choices that have an impact on living things.”

After the playground was cleaned up, the fourth graders worked on cleaning the Adams’ Garden and preparing it for the spring planting. Callum Palmiter said, “It felt good to help our Earth and help our school.”

“I am relieved that our garden is finally clean. It was a lot of work,” remarked Brenton Boguszewski as he worked hard with his classmates to pull out some stubborn weeds.

Priya Ghose summed up the action project by saying, "It made me feel happy that we were doing something for the environment. Not only helping our school but also our neighborhood and our planet."

Fourth graders also worked together on group paintings which captured their learning of “Sharing the Planet”. They will be hanging them on the garden fence to brighten up the garden and to remind everyone that EVERY DAY IS EARTH DAY.

Central Park STEM Family Night

Central Park Elementary held a STEM family event with activities in each maker space. Families worked together on coding, creating catapults, robotics, legos, building items and much more! These inquiry based activities were fun-filled, bringing the Central Park community together. Thank you to staff, Dow Ambassadors and the Midland High Robotics Team for supporting this event.

MPS observed National Administrative Professional Day Last Week

Our staff said thank you to their OP/AA staff members in their own way last week. In this photo, the Plymouth office staff members, Joni Wing and Jamie Dahl, were honored by their co-workers in their brand new Media Center.

Thank you MPS OP/AA’s for all you do each and every day for MPS students, staff, families and community!

Today is a special day in MPS-land. At 2:00 today at Central Auditorium, we are holding our 63rd Annual Gerstacker Ceremony honoring our dedicated teachers. The 2018 Gerstacker recipients will be announced and 2017-18 MPS Retirees and staff members with 25, 30 and 40 years of service will be honored. Everyone is invited!
Focus, Midland High’s school newspaper, received many high honors at the annual spring conference and awards ceremony hosted by the Michigan Interscholastic Press Association. Focus won the Spartan Award – the highest honor bestowed upon a school newspaper in Michigan – for overall journalistic excellence. Focus was one of eight school newspapers in the State to receive the award. This is the 25th Spartan Award in Midland High history. MHS seniors Fisher Genau and Hope O’Dell, the paper’s photography/design editor and managing editor respectively, were named to the Student Journalist All-State team. They were two of 15 students statewide to receive All-State honors. In all, 29 MHS journalism students won 44 awards in a variety of individual categories devoted to writing, photography, graphic design and page design. This included 10 first-place awards.

The Focus editorial board consists of Editor-in-Chief Gwynne Özkan, Managing Editor Hope O’Dell, Photo/Design Fischer Genau, News Editor Holly Stauffer, Sports Editor Hannah Smith, Feature Editor Bitsy Mammel, Arts & Entertainment Editor Hailey Surbrook, Opinion Editor Danielle Julien, Web Editor Hadley Morden, Exchange Editor Josie Kuchek, Ad Coordinator Olivia Freidinger and Copy Editor Lexy Lang. The Focus is advised by journalism teacher Jim Woehrle.

The conference took place on April 23 at the Lansing Center.

Ms. Storm’s kindergarten students at Siebert Elem. publish a book each year. This year’s theme - "If I were a superhero." Some kindergarten student superpowers: "pressing a button to mop the floor" - "flying" - "shooting lightening" - "making glitter" - "people fall in love".

Dow High’s Spring Musical, Wizard of Oz, will be performed at Central Auditorium this week—May 4 at 7:30 pm and May 5 at 2:00 & 7:30 pm. Tickets are $8 for students and seniors and $10 for adults and are being sold during the lunch hours.

Congratulations to the Midland High students who competed at the Skills USA Competition recently.

Congratulations to Jacob Gomala who placed 1st for MIG GMAW welding, Cam Grave who placed 2nd in overall welding and JP Zaremba and Ryan Colston who also competed. Corey Pawlak is the MHS welding teacher.

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/

“He has achieved success who has worked well, laughed often, and loved much.” — Elbert Hubbard