63rd annual Gerstacker Teacher Proficiency Awards

Each year since 1956, teacher proficiency awards have been given to recognize contributions by exemplary Midland Public Schools’ teachers beyond the ordinary level of professional performance. These awards are made possible through the generous support of the Carl and Esther Gerstacker Donor-Advised Fund at the Midland Area Community Foundation. This lovely end-of-year annual event was held on April 30.

Congratulations to this year’s Gerstacker recipients

(From Left to Right)
 Robin Bott, Northeast SS/ELA Teacher
 Pam Andrews, Siebert 3rd Grade Teacher
 Lori Washabaugh, Adams 4th Grade Teacher
 Sean Murray, Dow High Math/Computer Science Teacher and The Charge Robotics Coach

Congratulations and best wishes to our 2017-18 MPS Retirees

Also at the April 30 Gerstacker celebration, we recognized and honored our 2017-18 retirees. We have 26 certificated staff members who are retiring this school year. This group of distinguished educators have dedicated 703 combined years of service to MPS students, staff, families and community. Our 2017-18 MPS certificated retirees are: Deborah Chernich, Terri Dulude, Janet Greif, Bridget Hockemeyer, Amy Hutchinson, Julie Hyatt, Mary Larson, Rhonda Leasher, Marty Jo Legge, Will Luzar, Fran Martinez, Michelle Meitler, Jason Merry, Tracy Merry, Nancy Metz, Judith Morin, Lori Murphy, Jorge Pena, Mark Pickering, Beth Quimby, Amy Slabaugh, Kolleen Smith, Coreen Thompson, Lynn Tolfa, Bernadette Wood, Brian Zimmermann.

Midland Public Schools’ is pleased to announce several Administrative changes for the 2018-19 School Year

Kevin Gosson has accepted the position of Director of Special Education at Midland Public Schools effective July 1, 2018. Kevin comes to us from the Bay-Arenac ISD.

Julie Villano will be the new Midland High Assistant Principal effective July 1, 2018 with the retirement of Amy Hutchinson. Julie is currently a Dow High Assistant Principal.

Kelly McArdle will begin her new assignment as the Assistant Principal at Central Park Elementary effective July 1, 2018. Kelly currently teaches English and Social Studies at Jefferson Middle School.

Mary Laures will begin her role as Supervisor of Special Education at Midland High and Northeast Middle Schools effective July 1, 2018. Mary is currently the MPS Director of Special Education.

Central Park Elementary has been named a recipient of this year’s Construction & Design Awards! In addition to receiving this award, Central Park will also be featured in the upcoming Construction & Design issue of Technology Century Magazine.
On Thursday, March 15th, the 4th graders at Adams Elementary presented their recorder concert. The Midland High School Jazz Band and Honors Orchestra joined in at this concert, and the 4th grade students got to see and hear what they could eventually sound like if they choose to join band or orchestra in 5th grade.

Adams’ 2nd Graders read the story Balto every year. It is a true story about people dying from diphtheria in the town of Nome, Alaska. There is a terrible snow storm so the only way medicine can be delivered is by dog sled teams taking it from Anchorage, Alaska to Nome. The Iditarod is an annual race which is run along the same trail the teams took to deliver the medicine in 1925. Two years ago, 2nd grade had Shaynee Traska visit Adams to share her experiences with the sport of dog sledding. She recently qualified to run the 2018 Iditarod. To go along with our PYP unit, Sharing the Planet, 2nd grade is looking to sponsor Shaynee Traska in her inaugural run. Shaynee is originally from Gladwin, Michigan, and now resides in Alaska. The students are taking action by selling popcorn to the student body. The proceeds will go toward sponsoring checkpoints along the race trail.

Mrs. Stajdl’s 4th grade class at Plymouth Elementary partnered with Delta College to send 25 school supply bags to students in Kenya. Each student helped package a school kit and wrote a letter to the student who would be receiving their kit.

Last week, Central Park Elementary students enjoyed another first—a fun-filled carnival. The Dow High robotics team, The Charge, was among the Dow High student groups helping out at the Central Elementary carnival. The Charge also did some robot demos.

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Congratulation to Dow High’s Kyle Brennan, Gage Rivard and Brandon Gallagher who were MITES Automotive Technology State Competitors recently.

Brandon Gallagher placed 6th in Automotive Safety Electrical; Gage Rivard placed 3rd in Automotive Braking Systems and 8th in Technical Mathematics; Kyle Brennan placed 9th in Automotive Electrical, 5th in Automotive Safety Electrical and 3rd in Vehicle Inspection. Kyle Brennan also received a scholarship to the Michigan Institute of Aviation and Technology.

Midland Public Schools’ food service provider is Chartwells. We have just received word that Midland Public Schools is receiving a grant called HUSSC, “Healthier US School Challenge” for which we have received a bronze award for our six elementary buildings. This grant recognizes schools who meet the meal pattern in an exemplary manner and criteria of free and reduced percentages. The grant is for $500 per building and $3,000 total. This grant will be used for our elementary food service program.
Adams Elementary 4th Graders TAKING ACTION!

Adams Elementary 3rd graders have been learning about surface changes on the Earth through our "Footprints on the Earth" science unit. They have investigated what it is like to Share the Planet through our unit of inquiry.

Students enjoyed making and erupting their own volcanoes in class with creative, hands-on science learning. It was a blast!

Adams Family Night: It's a Balancing Act was a night filled with health, fitness and fun on April 11. Adams staff partnered with the Greater Midland Community Center to offer Zumba, family yoga and information about the upcoming local races in the community. In addition, families could enjoy a fun outdoor obstacle race, smoothie tasting and making to-go bags, exercise games to play at home and an opportunity to make healthy snacks. Partnerships along with the Greater Midland Community Center included: Ray's Bike Shop and Green Gourmet Cafe.

Congratulations to H. H. Dow High's Daniel Zhang, Brandon Zhu and Stephen O'Donnell who participated in the regional Flint Science Fair in March. All three were named finalists in this prestigious competition. Daniel and Brandon advanced to the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (Intel ISEF) in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, in May with a trip paid by the Flint Science Fair organization. Best wishes Daniel and Brandon!

Donice Hannegan, Agriculture Division of DowDuPont and co-founder of GLAD (Gays, Lesbians, and Allies at Dow) spoke to the Midland High Gay, Straight Alliance (GSA) group last month. Member Samone Gallagher said, "Donice was amazing! She was the best guest speaker I've ever listened to."

GSA adviser, Heather Aviles said, she is inspirational and has such a good message. She gets people excited about making positive changes in the world. She doesn't want to complain about inequality but wants to do something about it.

The MHS GSA also participated in a school carnival at Plymouth Elementary in March where they volunteered as face painters and ran games booths.

Natalie McGuire was recently named one of The Detroit News’ Outstanding High School Graduates for 2018.

Natalie earned the honor in the category "Against All Odds." While battling Fibro dysplasia Ossificans Progressiva Natalie maintained a 4.65 GPA, earned a 1500 on her SAT, and completed requirements for the International Baccalaureate Diploma. Natalie will be featured in an upcoming edition of the The Detroit News.
Midland High School Geoscience teacher Joel Mikusko instructs small groups of students in a lab dealing with the how changes in the tilt of the Earth and its orbit can result in long-term climate change. Such hands-on teaching is a trademark of the Geoscience program.

Chemic alumni Taylor Wallen, Class of 2010, spoke to the Advanced Biology, Anatomy and Physiology, and Health Care Tech 1 classes during the first week in May. Taylor earned a Bachelor's of Science degree from The University of Michigan with a major in cellular and molecular biology, a Medical Doctorate from Central Michigan University, and she graduated from CMU’s College of Medicine this spring. The core of her presentations came from these experiences, and MHS students certainly benefited from her sharing and answering questions.

During the first week in May, Midland High School held four Honor Roll programs, one for each grade. Student recipients and their parents were invited. 776 students, or 60% of the student population, were on the honor roll earning a 3.0 unweighted GPA for one or two previous semesters.

**Current Bond Project — Siebert Elementary School Major Renovations Under Way**

Siebert is preparing to use their new bus loop. The “old” bus lane will be open for parking now which will eventually add parking spaces. In April areas of the roof were replaced and the new gym and cafeteria walls were going up. Construction is moving right along at Siebert!

**THANK YOU MIDLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS VOLUNTEERS!**

Renee Urlaub, our United for Success Volunteer Program Coordinator just submitted her quarterly report. Here are our impressive MPS volunteer numbers:

- 3,342 approved volunteers
- 12,240 volunteer hours for the quarter: January-March
- 22,657 total volunteer hours for the 2017-18 school year.

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/

**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/