NEW MPS WEBSITE IS ON THE HORIZON!

We have been working hard for the past several months on a brand new website for the District. Through the end of this school year, when you go to www.midlandps.org, you will continue to go to our current MPS webpage. The new website will feature a district-wide calendar, a powerful search engine, will be easy to navigate and much, much more.

WE PLAN TO LAUNCH THE NEW WEBSITE IN TWO STEPS:

1. Here is the link to the “website release candidate” http://www.midlandps.mi.schools.bz/

   This link will take you to the new site with current information. You are welcome to use it as you would like. When you visit, we are hoping you will share your thoughts (both positive and your constructive feedback) with us. You will see an “Alert: Click here to submit feedback on our new Sites” on the very top of the website. Click on the link and tell us what you think … then …

2. This summer, once we have worked out as many bugs as we can, we will make the final transition to make the new website live, which means the new MPS website will be fully functioning for the 2018-19 school year. We hope you visit the “website release candidate” often and leave your feedback for us. Our goal is to make our website an even stronger communication tool for all MPS stakeholders.

PRE-PRIMARY CENTER AT CARPENTER STREET SCHOOL

Our MPS Buildings and Ground staff is working hard getting the Pre-Primary Center ready for three sections of Young 5’s Kindergarten and our two 4-year-old preschool programs: Great Start Readiness and IB-Primary Years Programme (IB-PYP) this fall.

Some of the staff for our new MPS Pre-Primary Center will come from our current early childhood programs and some will be new hires, for which we have been busy interviewing this spring. A few weeks ago, a district hiring committee interviewed from a pool of candidates and chose my wife, Pam Sharrow, as the new Pre-Primary Center Director from the group of candidates who interviewed. (For clarity: district hiring practice removed me from being part of the interview team or having any part of the hiring discussion or decision). Pam was selected by the committee as the most qualified candidate. She brings 21 years of public education experience, including 11 years as a pre-school (GSRP) and elementary teacher. Pam earned her BA from Oakland University in Elementary Education and her MA in Early Childhood from Saginaw Valley State University and holds a current Michigan Elementary Teaching Certificate.

When the Pre-Primary Center opens for the 2018-19 school year, it will be under the direct supervision of Penny Miller-Nelson, who has recently been named the Associate Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment beginning with the 2018-19 school year. We are excited to get this new MPS Pre-Primary Center off the ground this fall for our district’s youngest learners!
The H.H. Dow High School Bands, directed by Steve DeRees and Nicki Bruski, will present their Spring Concert on Wednesday, May 16, 2018 at 8:00 pm in Central Auditorium.

Students in the Green Concert Band, Gold Concert Band and Symphonic Band will perform a variety of music including works by Karl King, John Philip Sousa, Richard Wagner, John Williams, Journey and selections from the *Pirates of the Caribbean*.

Senior Band members will be recognized for their tremendous contributions to the band program at Dow High. The Symphonic Band will offer the premier performance of a new work for concert band. *Yellow Fleet*, by Caleb Hammer, was commissioned in honor of the band’s 50th Anniversary.

The public is invited. General seating, no admission charge.

The final quarterly *Our Schools* for the 2017-18 school year was an insert in this past Saturday’s *Midland Daily News*.

We hope you love reading about all of the great things going on in OUR SCHOOLS as much as we love sharing them with you!

Here is a link if you would like to check it out on-line. [https://new.midlandps.org/wp-content/uploads/20180508OurSchools.pdf](https://new.midlandps.org/wp-content/uploads/20180508OurSchools.pdf)

The MPS DSA Nomination window is now open!

Nomination deadline is June 15, 2018

The Midland Public Schools’ Distinguished Service Awards (DSA) were established to honor MPS support personnel.

The following MPS employee groups are eligible for nomination:

- Administrative Assistant/Office Professional, Grounds, Manager, Maintenance, Paraprofessional, Technician, Transportation

This award is separate from the Gerstacker Teacher Proficiency Award. Support staff only are eligible for this award.

(Please do not nominate a teacher; they are not eligible for this award.)

Additional DSA information is available on the MPS website (www.midlandps.org). Here is a link to the on-line nomination form: [https://goo.gl/forms/vlSeMihjjiV8QBf83](https://goo.gl/forms/vlSeMihjjiV8QBf83)

Nominate a great MPS support “staffer” today!

Thank you to the Rollin M. Gerstacker Foundation for making the MPS Distinguished Service Awards possible!

Tuesday, May 8, the Midland High Meistersingers earned 89 out of 90 possible points and received a standing ovation at State Choral Festival! Congratulations to these accomplished student musicians!

Please allow us to say again how much we appreciate our dedicated MPS volunteers! We have over 3,400 volunteers who work with our 7,700 MPS students. MPS students and staff are so fortunate!

**If would you like to continue to volunteer at MPS next year, we need you to let us know!**

On Monday, May 7, Renee Urlaub, MPS volunteer coordinator, sent An e-mail to all of our registered volunteers with instructions. It will take 2 clicks to let us know you want to continue your volunteer status for the 2018-19 school year. Please check your email. It’s quick and easy … just two clicks!

Thank you!

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Thank you!
On May 10, 33 students from Saginaw, Midland and Bay Counties received full scholarships to Michigan Tech’s Engineering Scholars Program in July this summer from Hemlock Semiconductor. We are thrilled to report that seven of the 33 students were from MPS.

H. H. Dow High School: Tristan Brewer, Jared Poliskey and Isabelle Rhee

Midland High: Corbin Fleming-Dittenber, Stephen Gillman, Carlie Servinski, Sam Yoder

Each scholarship covers tuition, supplies, room, board and round trip charter bus transportation to Michigan Tech’s campus.

Congratulations! We hope you enjoy this very special experience in Michigan’s beautiful UP.

Thank you Deloitte!

Deloitte, an accounting firm in Midland, recently called our office and asked if MPS had any use for legal size file folders. They said they had gone digital and no longer had a use for them. When we put a message out to our schools, we had classroom teachers and especially the MHS art department say they would love them. As you can see by this photo, Deloitte donated several crates of legal size folders and even a crate of new binders. Who knows what these folders will end up being once our MHS student artists let their creativity flow. Midland Public Schools is so fortunate to be located within a community whose business partners remember our staff and students in so many varied and generous ways.

Make Midland Beautiful

MPS students in 2nd and 6th grades celebrate Midland. In art class the students create art works celebrating Midland. From each class two artworks are selected to go on display at the Grace A. Dow Library. One student from each school was chosen to meet the Midland Mayor. This past Monday (5/7) was the city council meeting. The students were recognized and had a chance to talk with Mayor Donker.

The annual Grade 4 & 5 Elementary Track Meet is June 4 at 4:15 at Community Stadium.

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 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

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/

wise thought to ponder …

“Mama was my greatest teacher, a teacher of compassion, love and fearlessness. If love is sweet as a flower, then my mother is that sweet flower of love.”

— Stevie Wonder