Your Bond Dollars … Working Hard … Accomplishing Great Things … Just as Promised

It’s time to take a look at how the Midland Public Schools’ bond funding has been working hard to accomplish great things to improve our schools and enhance our ability to educate the students of our community.

We are pleased to announce four public Open Houses where we will showcase building improvements and let the work speak for itself. The public is invited to attend any or all the Open Houses. (No registration is necessary.)

Central Auditorium: Monday, June 4, 5:30-7 p.m.
Central Park Elementary: Monday, June 4, 5:30-7 p.m.
Plymouth Elementary: Wednesday, June 6, 5:30-7 p.m.
Woodcrest Elementary: Thursday, June 7, 5:30-7 p.m.

School Improvement Background

School improvements are being made possible because of bond funding that was approved by voters in February 2015. What was included in the bond? The much-needed improvements are quite extensive. Our oldest school was built in the 1920’s and even our newest schools are more than 50 years old. Improvements include enhanced security; remodeling and building additions; enhanced technology; purchasing school buses; developing and improving playgrounds and fields; and more.

We’re pleased and proud to report that the bond language is being carried out in full, and more than half of the work using Series One funds is completed. Now is a great time to take a look!

Thank You to Our Leaders, Community

These exciting results are possible because of the careful attention and rigorous diligence of our MPS leadership, including the Superintendent, the Board of Education, and the Facilities, Finance and Operations Board subcommittee (FFO). FFO meets monthly to review progress, make decisions about the most appropriate use of bond funds, and make recommendations to the full board. Our buildings are old, and as with all old buildings, there are hidden issues in each one. Because of detail-oriented diligence, we have identified innovative ways to address unexpected surprises, accomplish more with less, and even at times find ways to make enhanced improvements. Thank you MPS leaders!

Thank you to our community as well. We are grateful for your confidence as we administer the bond, taking into consideration the changing costs of materials and supplies, and making adjustments based on the unique needs of the structures as they age. Thank you for your trust and for allowing us to fulfill our responsibilities in a way that ensures the best outcomes.

Please Come and See the Results

We would love to see you at our Open Houses. You will be pleased with our progress and proud of our schools. Join us the week of June 4!

Transparency is our pledge to you.

If you have questions about anything you see, read or hear about the bond projects or bond funds, contact the Superintendent’s Office at 923-5014 or via MPSConnect at https://midlandps.org/connect/form.php

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 Public Schools’ Distinguished Service Awards (DSA) were established to honor MPS support personnel. The nomination window is now open until June 15.

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/vlSeMihJjiW8QBf83

Nominate a great MPS support “staffer” today!

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

As you may remember, we reported a month or so ago, Dow High’s Daniel Zhang, Brandon Zhu and Stephen O’Donnel participated in the regional Flint Science Fair and did very well. Daniel and Brandon advanced to the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair, which was this past week. They did well and earned an award presented by Drug, Chemical & Associated Technologies with a $3,000 scholarship. It was a great experience with 1750 students from 80 countries competing. Congratulations Daniel and Brandon! Thank you for representing MPS so admirably!

Congratulations to our May 2018 Shining Stars Wendy Thomas, Juvenile Care Center Teacher; Ron Potter and Eric Smith, Help Desk Technicians, in the MPS Technology Department at the Administration Center.

These hardworking members of the MPS team will be recognized at tonight’s Board of Education meeting for making MPS a better place for students.

Congratulations, Wendy, Ron and Eric!

Ms. Kim Welter, Literacy Specialist at Woodcrest Elementary, led and organized their first Family Literacy Night on Wednesday, May 16, 2018. Ms. Christensen and Ms. Pnacek, Literacy Specialists at Siebert, Adams, and Plymouth helped throughout the night. The theme was Camp Read-A-Lot with a lot of literacy activities taking place. The students and their families celebrated literacy with a variety of stations that included Camping Compounds, Sight Word Stars, Camping Mad Libs, Silly Tongue Twisters, All About Me Poems and more! Ms. Welter, with the help of MHS and DHS, collected over 850 books to give away. Each child left with 12 to 15 books for summer reading! It was a great night of reading and fun!

Two Adams’ Elementary 3rd Grade students—Brynn Haddad and Avery Stewart—sent a wonderful message to their fellow Adams Atoms at lunch recess one day last week. A great reminder for each of us! Nice job, Brynn & Avery.

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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/
NEW MPS WEBSITE

Through the end of this school year, when you go to www.midlandps.org, you will continue to go to our current MPS webpage.

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 share your feedback.

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 new site often and leave your feedback. Our goal is to make our website an even stronger communication tool for stakeholders.

No School
Monday, May 28, for Memorial Day.

IF WOULD YOU LIKE TO CONTINUE TO VOLUNTEER AT MPS NEXT YEAR, WE NEED YOU TO LET US KNOW!

On May 7, Renee Urlaub, MPS volunteer coordinator, sent an email to all of our registered volunteers with the 2-click instructions to “re-up” for the 2018-19 school year. Please check your email.

THANK YOU!

THE COMMUNITY FLYER BOARD IS PACKED FULL OF AMAZING SPRING AND SUMMER FUN ACTIVITIES, CLINICS, CAMPS AND EVENTS FOR MPS STUDENTS PRE-KINDERGARTEN THROUGH GRADE 12.

Click here and check them out today:

Midland High Senior Hannah Bartels recognized for two outstanding honors

The John Alden Chapter’s DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution) Good Citizen winner, Hannah Bartels, was one of 10 finalists for the State of Michigan. In this finalist scholarship competition, Hannah was the 3rd Place winner. She received a certificate and check from the State Good Citizen’s Chair Christine Richman and State Regent Diane Schrift. John Alden member Good Citizens Chair Joan Rogers and Hannah’s mom Joellen were also in attendance.

Hannah was chosen as the local chapter winner in November based on her academic achievement, community service, citizenship, patriotism and an essay she wrote on our American heritage.

The annual Grade 4 & 5 Elementary Track Meet is June 4 at 4:15 at Community Stadium. Come and support our young athletes.

Midland High Senior Hannah Bartels recognized for two outstanding honors

Midland Public Schools
600 East Carpenter
Midland, Michigan 48640

MPS Website: www.midlandps.org

Twitter: @MichaelSharrow2 @MidlandPS

YouTube Channel: http://midps.org/youtube


Administration 923-5001
Adams Elementary 923-6037
Central Park Elem. 923-6836
Chestnut Hill Elem. 923-6834
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

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→ Angela Brandstadt, Vice President
→ Patrick Frazee, Treasurer
→ Scott McFarland, Secretary
→ Lynn Baker, Trustee
→ Brad Blasy, Trustee
→ Mary Fredell, Trustee

Email: board@midlandps.org

wise thought to ponder …

“137 years later, Memorial Day remains one of America’s most cherished patriotic observances. The spirit of the day has not changed — it remains a day to honor those who died defending our freedom and democracy.”

— Doc Hastings