

**2020 GERSTACKER RECIPIENTS** As we all know, 2020 was unprecedented in so many ways. If you have had children at MPS in the past, you know an important award recognition for our instructional staff are the Gerstacker Awards for Excellence in Teaching. Each year nominations are accepted from students, colleagues, families, community members, alumni, etc. for MPS instructional staff members who display excellence in teaching. Two elementary and two secondary instructional staff members are selected each year as Gerstacker Award recipients. You may remember that we accepted 2020 Gerstacker winner nominations last winter, but, because of COVID, we were unable to hold our annual award ceremony and reception in May, as we have done for many, many years. We still wanted to recognize and celebrate 2020 Gerstacker recipients, especially since we received so many heartfelt nominations. The committee put their heads together and thought outside the box. Today's professional development for staff was held virtually. At 2:45 this afternoon, all of our professional development presenters played a video link and revealed the 2020 Gerstacker recipients. Even though we weren't able to meet in person, our 2020 Gerstacker Excellence in Teaching recipients were revealed across the District at the same time.

**Please join us in congratulating and celebrating MONIQUE, SARAH, KARA AND JIM —  
Midland Public Schools' 2020 Gerstacker Recipients!**

### **MONIQUE ALBRIGHT — Midland High**

Monique joined the MPS team in 1997. She teaches Social Studies at Midland High and serves as the Chemic Student Council Advisor. One of Ms. Albright's nominators said, "When I first met Ms. Albright during the last week of school of my eighth grade year, I instantly felt the impact of the energy and passion she has for what she does ... and that she would be one of the most important mentors and people I would ever meet in my life. ... Her overwhelming empathy and dedication towards her students never ceases to amaze me. ..."



### **SARAH DOUGHTY — Woodcrest Elementary**

Sarah joined the MPS team in 2013 as a 4th Grade teacher at Woodcrest Elementary and remains in this role today. One of Ms. Doughty's nominators said, "My son got very ill and was hospitalized for weeks ... She has made this very tough year for our family easier. She is easy to work with and communicate with. ... Sarah is well rounded and really wants the best for the kids and will stand up for the kids. ... I'm proud to submit Ms. Doughty for this award as she goes above and beyond for all of her students and parents! ..."



### **KARA EDDY — Central Park Elementary**



Kara joined the MPS team in 2004. She is a Special Education Teacher at Central Park Elementary. One of Kara's nominators wrote, "Kara Eddy is the definition of an exceptional teacher. Each day she goes above and beyond for her students. She is constantly thinking of new strategies to implement in her

instruction, holding homework sessions during lunch, providing breaks for students not ready to learn, and doing all of this with a calming, kind demeanor.... She is fantastic at communicating with parents during IEPs and does so with the right amount of concern and compassion. ... she continues to come to school with the mindset of, I will do whatever is necessary to make my students feel important and valued. Kara is the kind of teacher that I and others aspire to be on a daily basis. ..."

### **JIM WOHRLE — Midland High**



Jim joined the MPS team in 2000 as an English and Journalism Teacher at Midland High and has been the Advisor/Teacher for the *Focus* for 20 years. The *Focus* has received many, many State and National awards throughout his years. One of Mr. Woehrle's nominators said, "Jim Woehrle is the reason I became a

teacher. His passion, enthusiasm, and dedication to his students is undeniable. I spent many hours before and after school with Mr. Woehrle. Now that I'm a teacher myself, I can see the impact those hours have on a teacher's life ... I appreciated the connection and mentoring Mr. Woehrle provided, especially during a time of my life that was challenging. ... Education experts say that it takes just one caring adult to change a student's life and Jim Woehrle was that caring adult for me. ..."

**Thank you to the Gerstacker Family for their support of this prestigious MPS award for 65 years!**