MPS INCLUSION & DIVERSITY
VISION STATEMENT
Everyone in our school community is valued, safe, treated with kindness and respect, and works together to make our community and world a better place.

Superintendent Communiqué
January 13, 2020 <- Volume 7, Issue 22

Michael E. Sharrow, Superintendent
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On Thursday and Friday of this past week, students in the Freshman World History class at Midland High gained historical insights during a visit from Mrs. Sarah DerGazarian, who shared her family’s experiences and stories during the Armenian Genocide. Mrs. D (or Grama D as the students call her) presented alongside History Teacher, Ms. Beson-Steger, to introduce real-life events and happenings that led to the Genocide. She shared family memoirs, maps, stories, and aftereffects of the impact the genocide had on her grandparents, parents and in-laws. Grama D was relieved and thankful that the US Senate finally recognized the Armenian Genocide as a real “genocide” with Senate Resolution 150 after years of dismissal. One final piece of advice that Grama D gave to students, “Know your family history. Ask your grandparents about your family and really listen to your family history.”

Thank you to Mrs. DerGazarian for sharing her knowledge and her family’s experiences with MPS students!

As you know, all across Midland Public Schools, our students and staff are learning about, and working hard to foster, an environment of inclusion and kindness. In our weekly Communiques, we have been highlighting just a few of the ways this has been taking place across the District. Here is another great example: In a Midland High daily announcement last week, the announcement read, “Do you want to help improve inclusion in our school, but don’t know how to do it? Do you feel awkward around students who are different and don’t know what to say? The inclusion group, Scene Partners, has you covered …” The announcement went on to let students and staff know about a guest speaker from SVSU that will present information about the SVSU programs “that provide opportunities for general education students to befriend students with disabilities in a real and genuine way.” Great job, Chemic Scene Partners! Keep up the great work in providing these wonderful opportunities for Chemics!

Have you noticed that Midland Public Schools’ on-line presence keeps evolving?

⇒ This past week MPS rolled out an updated, more user-friendly website platform. If you haven’t had a chance to check it out, here is the link: www.midlandps.org.
⇒ In December we launched our new MPS app. In the app, you will find MPS info like news, events, staff, schools and more. Interested in including it on your smartphone or tablet? Search Midland Public Schools in your app store.
⇒ Want to follow MPS news on Twitter? @MichaelSharrow2 ~ @MidlandPS
⇒ Have a question for Mr. Sharrow? If you click on this MPS Connect link, your question will go directly to the superintendent’s office: https://goo.gl/forms/ciB8b7FAMXb4pQxN2
⇒ We are also streaming our Monday Board Meetings live to youtube! http://www.youtube.com/midlandpublicschools

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://goo.gl/forms/ciB8b7FAMXb4pQxN2
MPS is gearing up for the 2020-2021 school year for our youngest learners.

4-YEAR-OLD PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS … MIDLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS HAS TWO HIGH-QUALITY PROGRAMS TO GET YOUR CHILD’S K-12 EDUCATIONAL JOURNEY STARTED ON THE RIGHT TRACK!

➔ IB-PYP PRESCHOOL combines the Inquiry-based PYP foundation used across MPS elementary schools in this high-quality, well-priced tuition preschool. IB-PYP 4-year-old Preschool Registration opens February 3.

➔ GREAT START READINESS PROGRAM (GSRP) is a free preschool for qualifying families that gives students a high-quality educational foundation. GSRP Registration opens January 13. Please apply at www.michiganpreschool.org

MPS PRESCHOOL OPEN HOUSE for both the IB-PYP and GSRP 4-year-old programs is Monday, March 9 at 5:30 p.m. at the Carpenter Pre-Primary Center (1407 W. Carpenter St.)

Call the Carpenter Pre-Primary Center with any questions you may have 989-923-6411.

KINDergarten & Y5 DEVELOPMENTAL KINDergarten

➔ Will your child be 5 years old before September 1, 2020?
➔ Will your child be 5 years old between September 1 and December 1, 2020, and you plan to apply for the Waiver?
➔ Is your child attending Young 5’s Kindergarten this 2019-20 school year?

Did you answer YES to any of these questions?

IF SO … plan to attend KINDergarten ORientation at your neighborhood school (Adams, Central Park, Chestnut Hill, Plymouth, Siebert or Woodcrest)
on Tuesday, February 4, at 5:45 pm.

Kindergarten Orientation in your neighborhood school is for Kindergarten and Y5 Developmental Kindergarten student families!

WHAT TO BRING TO KINDergarten ORientation: Your child’s …

➔ original birth certificate (we will make a copy at orientation)
➔ immunization record
➔ proof of residency (utility bill, rent receipt, lease agreement, etc. with parent name & address)

Y5 DEVELOPMENTAL KINDergarten APPLICANTS:

➔ Y5 Developmental Kindergarten Application drop off night is February 6 from 4:30-6:00 pm at the Carpenter Pre-Primary Center (1407 West Carpenter Street)
➔ Y5 Developmental Kindergarten Application window ends February 28
Chestnut Hill Chipmunks spread kindness to this dedicated public servant and the work he did in our schools and community with a surprise assembly! The entire Chestnut Hill student body attended this celebration event to express their thanks and bid a fond farewell to their friend, Firefighter Arnold. Best Wishes in Maine, Firefighter Arnold!

Photo courtesy of Midland Daily News
The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) is seeking public input regarding the Top 10 in 10 Strategic Education Plan.

According to the press release we received last week, “We’re asking the public to help shape Michigan’s education focus,” said State Superintendent Dr. Michael F. Rice. “It is my expectation, and that of the State Board of Education, that an updated plan will be more streamlined and focused, and will have measures that align with the goals to help us monitor progress toward becoming a top education state.”

Here is a link with information about Michigan’s Top 10 in 10 years education strategic plan that was approved in February 2016. www.michigan.gov/Top10in10

Here is a link to the survey that will close on February 7, 2020: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/top10planreview

A draft of the updated plan is expected to be presented to the State Board of Education in late spring of 2020.

Don’t miss H.H. Dow High’s 2020 RenFair! January 24 at 7:00 pm at Midland Center for the Arts

Ticket prices are $15 for adults and $10 for students and are on sale now at the MCFTA ticket office or online at https://www.mcfta.org/event/h-h-dow-high-school/e27743/.

(All proceeds support the Dow High music programs.)

Get your tickets now before they sell out and watch our very talented HH Dow High Chargers Shine!

This past week, students in Economics Class at Midland High School enjoyed two different guest speakers.

On Monday, Mr. Gracia, a senior loan officer with Academy Mortgage Corporation, came to speak about the Mortgage Crisis of 2008 and the effects on the real estate market and the U.S. economy overall. Students had an opportunity to ask questions and connect how monetary policy and interest rates helped fuel the housing crisis which shook the entire nation.

On Friday, Mr. MacNellis, owner of LaLonde’s Market, came to share his experiences as a local business owner as well as provide suggestions for hiring, a first interview, necessary job skills, as well as practical information to complete the new W-4 Forms.

Thank you to these dedicated community partners for taking time from their very busy schedules to help our students connect economic and hiring principles and practices with real-life applications!
Join our Team

**MPS Current Job Openings**

Click on this link for current job postings:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Posting End Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Coach, Assistant, Soccer, Girls’</td>
<td>Midland HS</td>
<td>until filled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coach, Head, Tennis</td>
<td>Midland HS</td>
<td>until filled</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coach, Assistant Track</td>
<td>HH Dow HS</td>
<td>until filled</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coach, Head, Volleyball</td>
<td>Midland HS</td>
<td>until filled</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coach, JV, Boys’, Soccer</td>
<td>HH Dow HS</td>
<td>until filled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paraprofessional (two positions)</td>
<td>Chestnut Hill ES</td>
<td>until filled</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teacher, Elementary</td>
<td>District</td>
<td>until filled</td>
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Midland Public Schools contracts through EDUStaff for our substitute teachers. You choose the days, grade levels, schools at which you would like to sub! For more information go to www.edustaff.org TODAY

Nominate a great MPS team member for a SHINING STAR today!
MPS Team Shining Star Nominations are now being accepted for the 2019-20 school year for MPS staff members who you feel make MPS a better place for students. Please take a moment to nominate an MPS team member today! https://www.midlandps.org/shining-star-nomination-form

MPS Needs Substitute Teachers!

Have you checked out the MPS Student or Community Flyer Boards under the Community tab on the MPS website lately?

**Student Flyers:** https://sites.google.com/midlandps.org/studentflyers/

**Community Flyers:** https://sites.google.com/midlandps.org/communityflyers

Got exams? The Grace A. Dow Memorial library is sponsoring CRAM NIGHT on Sunday, January 19th from 5:30-8:00pm. The Library will be open to students in Grades 9-12 for a night of study. Student ID recommended. Enter through the auditorium doors. Free food & refreshments. Need more info? Call 837-3466.

Did you know the Grace A. Dow Memorial library, through the Michigan Electronic Library (https://www.mel.org/az.php), offers 24/7 remote access to LearningExpress Library, an interactive online resource designed to help students succeed? LearningExpress Library includes hundreds of practice exams and remedial courses for 4th graders through high school students in the areas of math, reading and writing skills improvement. The resource also includes practice exams and courses for the ACT, SAT, and AP tests. This resource is free to all Michigan residents, but you must create a login to download any materials.

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*MPS Board of Education Members:
- Pam Singer, President
- Scott McFarland, Vice President
- Lynn Baker, Secretary
- Mary Fredell, Treasurer
- Brad Blasy, Trustee
- Jon Lauderbach, Trustee
- Phil Rausch, Trustee

*wise thought to ponder ...

“My best friend is the one who brings out the best in me.”
— Henry Ford."