Superintendent
Communiqué

January 14, 2019

This Week & Next at MPS:
☆ H.H. Dow High and Midland High students will follow a special exam schedule Tuesday-Thursday, January 15-17
☆ MPS Elementary and Middle School students will follow their regular schedule Monday through Thursday.
☆ No School Friday, January 18 (Records Day)
☆ No School Monday, January 21 (MLK/PD Day)
☆ 2nd Semester begins Tuesday, January 22.

2019-2020 Kindergarten Enrollment
If you have a child who will be 5 years of age on or before September 1, 2019, your child is eligible to attend kindergarten.

Parents of incoming kindergarten students are invited to attend a parent orientation meeting in your local school attendance area. Information on kindergarten curriculum, schools of choice, and the registration process will be given at this time. Call your child’s school to RSVP today!!!

Our six elementary schools Kindergarten Orientation will take place on Tuesday, February 5 at the following times
★ 5:30 Adams 923-6037
★ 5:45 Central Park 923-6836
★ 5:45 Chestnut Hill 923-6634
★ 5:30 Plymouth 923-7616
★ 5:30 Siebert 923-7835
★ 5:30 Woodcrest 923-7940

MPS Pre-Primary Center Registration Information for 2019-2020
Young 5’s Kindergarten Enrollment:
⇒ Attend your home school for Kindergarten Orientation Tuesday, February 5, whether you are considering Young 5’s or Regular Kindergarten. An informed decision will be easier with more info.
⇒ Young 5’s Kindergarten information night will be held Monday, February 11, from 4:30-6:00 at Carpenter Street School’s Pre-Primary Center.

4-Year-Old Pre-School Programs:
⇒ International Baccalaureate Pre-Primary Years Preschool Programme (IB PYP) tuition-based program. Info and early registration Monday, February 11, 4:30pm-6:00pm at the Carpenter Street School’s Pre-Primary Center
⇒ Great Start Readiness Program
Sign up online at [www.michiganpreschool.org](http://www.michiganpreschool.org) for this FREE preschool for qualifying 4 year olds! (A family of 4 with a gross income of $60,000 per year or less meets income requirements. However, we encourage everyone to apply. The State considers multiple factors when placing children in GSRP.)

#MPSinspiringexcellence

You got this!
Best wishes
MPS high school students this week during final exams!

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](https://goo.gl/forms/ciB8b7FAMXb4pQxn2)
Midland High’s BPA — We reported in last week’s Communique that representatives of the Midland High BPA group presented information to the Board at the December meeting about their 2018-19 season. We are excited to report that the MHS BPA group did great at Regionals and had 44 members qualify for States in March! Congrats to everyone who participated in Regionals and Best wishes to the 44 who are moving on to States!

Please keep the nominations coming in for MPS staff members you believe are Shining Stars! Link to Shining Star nomination form: https://www.midlandps.org/shining-star-nomination-form

2018-19 2nd Semester Schools of Choice (SOC)


FIRST LEGO League Jr. Season Kicks off for Lower Elementary!

The lower elementary FIRST LEGO League Jr. robotics teams kicked off the 2019 season with their new challenge, Mission Moon. In this year’s challenge, teams will explore what they need to know about living on the Moon; will create a Moon Base from a LEGO inspiration kit, and will share their ideas to judges at the culmination of their season, the FIRST LEGO League Jr. Expo. Midland Public Schools is excited to have 13 teams, approximately 75 students, participating in this year’s FIRST LEGO League Jr. Mission Moon season.

Plymouth teams kickoff their inaugural FLL Jr. season in the new makerspace area

Members of the Plymouth FLL Jr. teams sharing via a LEGO mini-build what unique skills they will bring to their team

Members of Central Park FLL Jr. teams discussing and sharing their mini-builds

Members of Adams FLL Jr. teams building LEGO mini-builds
On January 7 International Baccalaureate Theory of Knowledge students from both Midland and Dow High Schools hosted an open house at the Alden B Dow Home & Studio (ABD H&S). The students have been meeting there each week for the duration of their two-semester class. The open house was a way for them to share the work they’ve done and to highlight the unique (and valuable) partnership between the TOK classes and the ABD H&S.

TOK classes at both high schools are comprised of IB diploma candidates and non-diploma students wishing to expand their understanding of how people create and acquire knowledge. The course challenges students to think beyond their own perspectives, digging deep into the how and why we learn. Alden B. Dow held the belief that all disciplines (especially the sciences and the arts) were dependent upon each other, and we have a responsibility to our community to leave it a better place. His Way of Life Cycle easily parallels the IB traits students work to embody.

The TOK classes invited MPS staff, administration and parents to visit and walk in the footsteps of an IB student through the H&S. Each station throughout the H&S shared a lesson, highlighted connections with the IB Learner Profile, and some even encouraged the visitors to participate in activities. Below are some of the visitor comments:

- “It relates to leadership a lot and how you can further impact and contribute to society in ways that people may not think of.”
- “I like the way design is brought in to overall though process in ToK.”
- “You can apply theories of ToK EVERYWHERE!”
- “Great job illustrating how Alden B. Dow connects with ToK. Thanks.”
- “I learned how a beautiful & inspiring environment can be such an asset to learning. Being surrounded by beauty can inspire the thought process Love this house!”
- “I was impressed with the broader point of view students seem to acquire through ToK.”
- “Being a successful person begins with understanding & accepting others as they are & respect their values also!”
- “Inspiring presentations! What an amazing program & great collaboration b/w MPS & the Dow family. The students have clearly learned a lot!”
- “The most amazing part was how well spoken, professional and knowledgeable the students were. Impressive!”

On Thursday, January 31, students will have an exciting opportunity to visit Career and Technical Education programs offered throughout Midland County. During the CTE Showcase students will learn more about how to incorporate employability and career specific or technical skills into their education through career and post-secondary readiness courses. For a complete list of program offerings please visit our website. Sign up is required and can be done so by contacting the school counselors or Career Development Facilitator, Robin Rogers at 989.631.5891 ext. 106 or rogers@midlandesa.org.
Upcoming 2019 Events . . . . .

MPS high school final exams
★ January 15-17 (high schools follow special schedule)

Incoming 6th Grade MPS Middle School Parent Meetings
★ Jefferson Middle School January 16 at 5 pm
★ Northeast Middle School January 15 at 5:30 pm

NO SCHOOL — Records Day
★ January 18, 2019

NO SCHOOL — Staff Development and Martin Luther King Jr. Day
★ January 21, 2019

Incoming Freshmen Parent Nights
★ DHS: January 21 at 6:00
★ MHS: January 22 at
   ☆ IB info at 5:45
   ☆ General Info at 6:30

On January 9 the MPS Parent Information Committee (PIC) met for the January monthly meeting. Twelve parents were in attendance and toured the Pre-Primary Center and Robotics Center at Carpenter Street School. Lots of great info was shared by Mrs. Pam Sharrow, Pre-Primary Center Director, and Ms. Annette Murray, 2018 MPS Star Volunteer and Assistant Robotics Coach of Dow High’s The Charge. The video for this meeting will be posted soon to the District’s YouTube site: https://www.youtube.com/user/MidlandPublicSchools

All MPS parents are welcome to be part of the MPS PIC group. Call Cindy at 923-5026 for more information.

2019 Graduation Ceremonies

Wednesday, May 29

⇒ Midland High will have the early start time
⇒ H. H. Dow High will have the later start time

Ceremonies will be held at Dow Diamond (weather permitting)

Watch for more information as the date gets closer