Superintendent Communiqué

January 20, 2020 <> Volume 7, Issue 23

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.

Michael E. Sharrow, Superintendent
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MAKE IT A DAY ON, NOT A DAY OFF

JANUARY 20, 2020

#MLKDAY

Please join us in celebrating a man who made a profound impact on our nation and world—Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. A man who was a forerunner and key proponent of Inclusion & Diversity in the United States as well as being a servant and champion for others. One of Dr. King’s most famous quotes:

“Life’s most persistent and urgent question is: What are you doing for others?”

While Midland Public Schools’ teachers attend professional development meetings during this non-school day for MPS, many students will be volunteering their time “doing for others.” It is always so exciting after this MLK Day of Service to see the difference MPS students have made in our community in just one day!

Please join MPS in honoring and celebrating Dr. King’s vision of Diversity, Equality, Inclusion and Service not just today but every day!

Just last week we discovered a problem with our MPS Connect Link! Unfortunately, we don’t know how long it has been down and how many messages we’ve missed. If you sent a message to my office via MPS Connect recently and did not get a reply, but would still like a response, please re-send your message via this link: https://goo.gl/forms/ciB8b7FAMXb4pQxN2

If you don’t get a response to any and all MPS Connect messages you send to us within 24 hours, please call my office directly at 923-5026!

FINAL’S WEEK ...

YOU’VE GOT THIS

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
Lilly D’Alessandro has been named Dow High Work-Based Learning Student of the Month. Lilly was nominated by her colleagues at The Dow Chemical Company for her outstanding work ethic and contributions to her work group. As a member of the Human Resources function, Lilly's primary responsibilities include: various project work, monitoring the group functional mailbox, responding to requests for assistance and sending out shipments. Lilly recently completed a project with the talent acquisition group and a project to update the employee database. Lilly's colleagues point out that she is very self motivated; she sees what needs done and she takes care of it. She is always willing to learn new things and is excited to help out in any way she can. When asked what they enjoy most about having Lilly on staff, her colleagues said, "Her attention to detail and ability to provide an extra set of hands and eyes the group can rely on to help in any situation." Congratulations, Lilly ... Keep up the great work!

MPS Budget Update

At the MPS Board of Education meeting this evening, the first of three scheduled budget amendments will be presented for adoption. This amendment will reflect changes in state/local funding, student enrollment and correlating adjustments to expected revenues/expenditures.

Highlights from this evening’s presentation to the Board will include:

- Student enrollment numbers above previous forecasts
- Increased revenue projections equating to a reduction in anticipated budget shortfall
- Healthy fund balance levels (assigned & unassigned)
- Substantial investments in student support services, classroom instruction, and district capital improvements
  - 99% of expenditure increases are related to these three areas
  - The largest investments (65%) occurred in the areas of student support services and classroom instruction

January 2020 Budget Amendment Expenditure Distribution

For further details, you can view the MPS Board of Education meeting at 7:00 p.m. this evening on the MPS TV station, watch the live stream (or recording) on the MPS YouTube Channel, or visit the MPS website for links to the presentation. The next budget amendments are scheduled to occur in March and June.

On January 14, Jefferson Middle School welcomed Mr. Cullen Pendleton, an intellectual property lawyer for Dow. Mr. Pendleton presented the topic of genetically modified corn to Mark Hackbarth’s and Christine Brillhart's 8th grade science classes. The students learned about the need for genetically modified crops like corn, the process of genetically modifying corn, and the pros and cons of genetically modified corn. The students will use the information from the presentation, as well as other resources, to form an argument from evidence regarding genetically modified organisms.
Midland Public Schools Partners with Dow to Accelerate Districts' Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Initiatives

The Midland Public Schools District, in partnership with Dow, is pleased to announce that Amy Beasley, Ph.D., will assume an assignment as Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) consultant for Midland Public Schools. Beasley is Dow’s North American inclusion leader and will serve as a consultant to MPS in a seconded capacity. She will support the district through the end of 2020 and will resume her Dow career at the conclusion of this assignment.

“We are happy to have Dr. Beasley join our team and bring her diverse experience to MPS,” said Michael Sharrow, Superintendent of Midland Public Schools. “Over the past year, our district team has been focused on developing our DEI strategy. With support from Dow and Amy’s leadership and direction, we are confident that we will accelerate our focus in this area and ensure that our district offers an inclusive learning environment for all students.” MPS staff members will remember that Dr. Beasley was one of the keynote speakers at our 2018 Opening Staff Meeting sharing information about Inclusion & Diversity.

Karen S. Carter, Dow’s chief inclusion officer and chief Human Resources officer says that Beasley will be able to share her experience at Dow to support the district’s diversity and inclusion efforts. “At Dow, Inclusion & Diversity is a business imperative. We strive to create an environment where every member of our team is respected and valued. We are pleased to build on our strong partnership with the Midland Public Schools District to make our community more welcoming to all.”

Beasley, a resident of Midland, is also a parent of two MPS graduates. Over the course of the next year, she will provide leadership, insights, support the DEI strategy and will partner with MPS stakeholders to accelerate the District’s vision. Beasley will lead several infrastructure teams as part of the collaborative strategy and will serve as a parent and community liaison for the District’s DEI efforts.

Beasley will collaborate most closely with Penny Miller-Nelson, Associate Superintendent of Curriculum at MPS, and will report directly to Sharrow. Beasley will provide monthly updates to MPS Administration. In addition, the Superintendent will provide opportunities for the Consultant to communicate with the Board of Education so they are kept informed of progress being made in implementing the DEI strategy.

Beasley joined Dow in 2015 as a scientist in the Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S) organization. In this role, she provided technical expertise in human and environmental risk assessment, exposure assessment, and biocidal product safety. She represented Dow externally with the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry and the Health and Environmental Sciences Institute. Prior to joining Dow, Beasley held positions in sales leadership, training, and project management.

She earned a Bachelor of Science in biology/genetics in 2011 and a Ph.D. in Molecular Biosciences with a concentration in environmental toxicology from Middle Tennessee State University.
**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
DuPont supports MPS FIRST Robotics Program
In mid-December at the Carpenter Robotics Center, local leaders at DuPont in Michigan presented $13,500 in shared funding to all twenty seven FIRST® Robotics Competition (FRC) teams within the Great Lakes Bay Region (GLBR). This donation will benefit both MPS high school robotics teams, Dow High’s Team 2619 ‘The Charge’ and Midland High’s Team 5509 ‘Like a Boss’ and was received by student representatives and DuPont mentors for each team. Thank you to DuPont for their commitment to improving student STEM learning!

Join our Team
MPS Current Job Openings
Click on this link for current job postings: https://www.applitrack.com/mps/onlineapp/jobpostings/view.asp

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<th>Position</th>
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<td>Midland HS</td>
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<td>Coach, Assistant Track</td>
<td>HH Dow HS</td>
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<td>Midland HS</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

MPS NEEDS SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS!
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

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

wise thought to ponder …
“I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character.”
- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.