WE MUST WORK TOGETHER

Over this past weekend I saw several social media posts that were speculative in nature about the horrific video post a student made recently. This weekend I also had community leaders, parents, citizens, superintendents from all over our state reach out to MPS offering support and assistance. I also witnessed many harmful and divisive statements.

WE MUST WORK TOGETHER if we want to eliminate incidents like the vile and racist video that was created.

MHS staff and students and all MPS staff and students are equally angry about this video, but we must use our anger and energy to pull together to continue our efforts to advance inclusivity.

I must explain that there are many speculating about the action that MHS and MPS have taken to date on this incident. I am not permitted to share specifics under The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), but I can say those who have speculated that discipline and exclusion from school were “light or too short” are inaccurate.

In my Special Edition Communique last Friday, I stated the District will use discipline, counseling and restorative practice. It appears some assumed the students who are under discipline and restorative practices returned to school right away. Under restorative approaches, students return to traditional school when professionals (administrators and counselors, for example) determine when a student or the victim are ready for a return to school. MPS offers many different forms of restorative practices and educational opportunities. Parents and students can rest assured that MPS will assure all students are safe using many methods to do so. It is not unusual to remove students from school while investigations are in process and information is gathered in order to make the best possible decisions. MPS Administration continues to investigate and gather information surrounding this incident. Please allow the process to be completed.

We know beyond the shadow of a doubt that the vast majority of our students are terrific young people. In fact, this generation of students is our best hope to make further progress on inclusion and put an end to divisive practices and acts. Do you know our students and staff have taken on many very significant issues recently? A couple of great examples are our active GSA and MIA high school clubs as well as student leaders organizing and creating an active campaign to take a visible stand against domestic violence. Our elementary students are all exposed to the IB PYP Learner Profile (principled, caring, open-minded, reflective, inquirer are just a few of the Learner Profile traits). A generation exposed to the Learner Profile traits have the opportunity to change society.

Midland Public Schools uses curriculum materials that blend subject matter and traits that we believe will foster respectful and inclusive students.

MPS has an Inclusion and Diversity Committee. You may recall this team traveled to New York City last fall as guests of the Dow Chemical Company. While in New York our task members met with Inclusion and Diversity staff from the Dow Chemical Company. This group is just beginning their charge and they already have plans to review this recent incident and develop future strategies and activities in our efforts to eliminate these venomous incidents from occurring.

We all witness similar events in our world, nation, state and community. Unfortunately, schools experience the same societal issues. Tearing our District apart does nothing to help or solve this issue! WE MUST WORK TOGETHER to continue to educate our youth if we have hope of eliminating these behaviors from our society.

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

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
The nomination window closes a week from Friday—March 15! For nomination information go to our website—www.midlandps.org—or click on this link: https://www.midlandps.org/News/223#sthash.J3dEZBCw.dpbf

To nominate a teacher, you may also send a personal letter via US Mail to: Gerstacker Committee, MPS Superintendent’s Office, 600 E. Carpenter, Midland 48640

This year’s Gerstacker Ceremony is Thursday, May 2, at 4:15 pm at Central Auditorium.

THE BOOSTER BASH IS SATURDAY!

Saturday, March 9 — 6:30 pm — Holiday Inn Midland

Be a champ and help support MPS athletes by attending Booster Bash 2019! Proceeds go to support the high school athletic programs at BOTH Midland and Dow High Schools. Uniforms, balls and other athletic equipment, tournament fees, scholarships for athletes, and coaches’ clinics are all funded by the Boosters. Enjoy a DJ and dancing, live and silent auctions, raffle, and a small-plate buffet and dessert bar. Tickets are $50 ($25 is tax-deductible) and include two drink tickets.

Click here for tickets & information: MPSSportsboosters.com

Our youngest robotics teams (Grades 1,2,3) are getting ready to showcase their work and creations at the upcoming Ready, Set, LEGO Jr. Expo, hosted by Nexteer Automotive and Midland Public Schools. In this year’s challenge, called Mission Moon, the FIRST LEGO League Jr. teams developed solutions for water, air, energy, food and other obstacles faced in space travel. They then engineered possible solutions into a moon base for their team. The Ready, Set, LEGO Jr. event will be Saturday, March 9th at Jefferson Middle School with a morning and afternoon session. Best wishes to the 13 teams from Midland Public Schools that are participating!

Half Day for Students

This Friday (March 8) is a half day of school for students. That afternoon staff will participate in Professional Development meetings. Please watch for information from your child’s school for their exact dismissal time.
Have you heard the news?

MPS is piloting Chinese World Language at Woodcrest Elementary. Their teacher, Jingcheng Wang, recently had 4th grade students making Chinese dumplings.

What a fun and delicious memory for these 4th Graders!

NOW ACCEPTING REGISTRATIONS FOR PRESCHOOL & KINDergarten

4-YEAR-OLD MPS PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS
☆ Great Start Readiness Program (no-fee program for children who qualify)
☆ IB PYP Preschool (tuition-based program)
MPS is YOUR trusted school district and has all the tools necessary to help your child to be confidently kindergarten ready!

MPS KINDergarten PROGRAMS
☆ Young 5’s Kindergarten
☆ Traditional Kindergarten

FOR INFORMATION
⇒ For Preschool or Young 5’s Kindergarten information, call Amy at the Pre-Primary Center (923-6414)
⇒ For Kindergarten questions, call your child’s school office. School numbers are listed on the back page of all MPS Monday Superintendent Communiques.

SCHOOLS OF CHOICE FOR THE 2019-20 SCHOOL YEAR

The application window for the first round Schools of Choice for 2019-20 is open until March 29, 2019.

Here is the link to the 2019-20 Schools of Choice Application:

Families will be notified of the status of their application mid to late April.

MPS PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES ARE THIS WEEK

Middle School
Tuesday, March 5 from 5-8 pm

Elementary School
Wednesday, March 6 from 5-8 pm

High School
Thursday, March 7 from 5-8 pm

2019 SAGINAW VALLEY LEAGUE TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Saginaw Valley League established this award to recognize excellence in teaching. This award is presented annually to one teacher from each Saginaw Valley member high school.

Nomination window closes March 15!

Link for info: https://www.midlandps.org/News/230#sthash.4LakjaM6.dpbs
THE ROBOTS ARE COMING … THE ROBOTS ARE COMING …  
FROM ALL OVER MICHIGAN

Mark your calendars for Midland’s FIRST Robotics District Competition March 22-23 at HH Dow High School. Both MPS award-winning high school robotics teams will be competing… HH Dow High’s Team 2619 The Charge & Midland High’s Team 5509 Like a Boss.

The 2019 competition is called "Destination: Deep Space," presented by The Boeing Company, where two competing ALLIANCES collect samples on Planet Primus in unpredictable terrain and weather patterns that makes remote robot operation essential to their mission on the planet. For more information go to: http://www.first-glbr.org/

Entry and Parking are Free! Everyone is welcome to come, watch and cheer for their favorite teams & robots!

Congratulations to all of the 4th and 5th grade students who participated in the 2019 MPS City-Wide Paddleton tournaments. This year’s tournament, hosted by the MPS elementary Physical Education teachers, featured 160 students from all six MPS elementary schools and two parochial schools. The elementary Physical Education teachers would like to thank the high school students from Midland High and Dow High schools who also helped to run the tournament. Here are the results from this year's tournament:

4th Grade Girls:
1st Place: Sanvi Patel (Siebert)
2nd Place: Ana Rutterbush (Woodcrest)
3rd Place: Jocelyn Larson (Siebert)
4th Place: Lainey Ringgold (Chestnut Hill)

4th Grade Boys:
1st Place: Wynn Diegel (Woodcrest)
2nd Place: Jaden Elford (Woodcrest)
3rd Place: Braden Miller (Chestnut Hill)
4th Place: Aiden Foster (Woodcrest)

5th Grade Girls:
1st Place: Peyton Shepardson (Plymouth)
2nd Place: Camdyn Sabourin (Siebert)
3rd Place: Rhyannah Nunamaker (Adams)
4th Place: Braxtin Smith (Plymouth)

5th Grade Boys:
1st Place: Ian McLachlan (Plymouth)
2nd Place: Gabe Hoppenjan (Chestnut Hill)
3rd Place: Brady Weyrowske (Plymouth)
4th Place: Jay Stevens (Siebert)

Kudos to all of the students who participated, the high school students who helped and the PE teachers who organized and ran this year's tournament!
Join our Team

**MPS Current Job Openings**

Click on this link for current job postings:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Building</th>
<th>Posting End Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Administrative Assistant</td>
<td>Central Park Elem.</td>
<td>3/5/2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coach, Assistant, Softball</td>
<td>HH Dow HS</td>
<td>until filled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coach, Assistant, Track, Boys’</td>
<td>HH Dow HS</td>
<td>until filled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coach, Assistant,Tennis, Boys’</td>
<td>HH Dow HS</td>
<td>until filled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coach, Head, Soccer</td>
<td>HH Dow HS</td>
<td>until filled</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mechanic’s Assistant</td>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>until filled</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paraprofessional</td>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>until filled</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paraprofessional</td>
<td>Chestnut Hill Elem.</td>
<td>3/4/2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paraprofessional</td>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>until filled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preschool Teaching Associate</td>
<td>Carpenter School</td>
<td>until filled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Principal, Elementary</td>
<td>Adams Elementary</td>
<td>until filled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Counselor</td>
<td>High School</td>
<td>3/5/2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sign Language Interpreter</td>
<td>District Wide</td>
<td>until filled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supervisor, Special Education</td>
<td>Special Services</td>
<td>until filled</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teacher, Elementary</td>
<td>District Wide</td>
<td>until filled</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teacher, Math</td>
<td>Secondary</td>
<td>until filled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher, Special Education</td>
<td>District Wide</td>
<td>until filled</td>
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In addition, we are always looking for

**SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS, PARAPROFESSIONALS AND BUS DRIVERS.**

Click on this link for information about these opportunities:
https://www.midlandps.org/Content/Employment%20Opportunities

Midland Public Schools now has **TWO FLYER BOARDS!**

- **Student Flyers:** Fun student activities, events and opportunities for students: https://sites.google.com/midlandps.org/studentflyers/
- **Community Flyers:** Information and events that may be of interest to parents & adults: https://sites.google.com/midlandps.org/communityflyers

Check back often. Flyers are coming in all the time!

— Loretta Lynch