April is National Volunteer Appreciation Month!

American Businessman David Green once said: “You need an attitude of service. You’re not just serving yourself. You help others to grow up and you grow with them.”

TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

As of the end of February, MPS has 3,662 approved volunteers who have volunteered approximately 16,450 hours during the 2018-19 school year. WOW! THANK YOU, MPS VOLUNTEERS, for your amazing “attitude of service” and being a very important part of our students’ MPS journey!

Thank you to Adams and Woodcrest Elementary Schools for presenting information about constructing and building an IB PYP Planner at the March 18 Board of Education meeting. The 65+ folks who attended the meeting enjoyed hearing the group discuss IB Standards and Practices, Framework, Programme of Inquiry, and much, much, much more! The presenters were Adams and Woodcrest Principals, Linda Lipsitt and Jeff Pennex; IB PYP Coordinator, Robin Harshman-Rogers; Woodcrest Teacher, Dominique Endsley; and Adams Teacher, Kara Stark.

On Friday, March 22, MPS welcomed approximately 35 Michigan State University education majors. Their day included a welcome and MPS information presentation at Central Auditorium, a speaker from the City of Midland, and tours of Central Park Elementary and HH Dow High. It was an honor to share MPS with these future educators!

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/ciB8b7FAMx4pQxN2
Congratulations to HH Dow High Seniors Stephen O’Donnell and David Lin who were recognized for scoring in the top 100 in the State on the Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition. Stephen was 46th in the State and David was 96th. The ranking came from a combined score on a multiple choice test as well as a short answer proof test.

Adams Elementary’ s visiting author Jonathan Rand did a wonderful job sharing the importance of imagination, reading and writing with the students on Tuesday. His key messages were “reading is not something you do; it’s a place that you go” and “books don’t have covers; they have doors.” He also taught students special motions and a spooky laugh to get them into the mood to write. Students left the presentation inspired to write and enjoy the adventures in the books that they read. Many thanks to the Adams’ PTO for sponsoring this wonderful presentation for Adams’ students!

Congratulations to our March Shining Stars!

**Jingcheng Wang**, Mandarin Chinese teacher at Woodcrest Elementary

**Megan Feiss**, Human Resources Administrative Assistant

Thank you to these MPS team members who were recognized at the March 18 Board of Education for going above and beyond to make Midland Public Schools a better place for students.

Midland High’s BPA Competes at State Leadership Conference

Forty-three Midland High School students attended the BPA State Leadership Conference in Grand Rapids. While attending the conference, students participated in work sessions related to business development and professionalism and also competed amongst 2,500 students from across the state in business-related events. 32 students placed in the top ten and 18 students qualified to attend the National Leadership Conference in early May in Anaheim, California. The students who performed at the top of their competition will represent MHS in the following events:

- Global Marketing-1st (Tegan Kareus, Abby Chapman, Tommy Johnstone, Jarrett Wagner)
- Presentation Management-2nd (Lane Gauthier)
- Human Resource Management-3rd (Hannah Woehrle)
- Java Programming-5th (Brylee Pavlik)

During the week before Spring Break, some Central Park 1st and 3rd grade students got to take an exhilarating field trip to the Greater Midland Community Center for a chance to try out the Rock Wall. The students were part of a 12-week long social skills group led by staff members Danielle Fox and Jennifer Williamson. During their fun time at GMCC, the Central Park Explorers were respectful, courteous of others and, most of all, had a ton of fun. CPE staff member Brett Seamster helped coordinate the event and accompanied the group.

Best wishes to those competing at the National Leadership Conference!
Come with Me
A Poem by Zoe Steger,
3rd Grade Student at Adams Elementary School

Come with Me and you will see
What a wonderful place the world can be.
A smile, a nod, and a kind act
Are what the story is all about.
A little girl who goes out in the world
And a man who tips his top hat.
She rides the subway with her dad
She sees kindness and this makes her glad.
She shops with her mom at the grocery store
And watches as people hold the door.
She plays with kids at the local park.
They draw chalk pictures in the sun.
Black, White, Brown, and Red
They don’t see color, they are just having fun.
The news is full of sadness and hate.
Come with me-
Open the gate.
Let’s walk out in the world and just be kind
It’s a wonderful place that you will find.

Zoe’s very special poem was inspired by and in response to the children’s book, Come with Me, by Holly M. McGhee

Zoe’s poem is a great example of our students “living the IB PYP Learner Profile.” MPS parents who have students in our elementary schools know that the Learner Profile is the heart of the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme. Thank you, Zoe, for sharing your insightful words with us!

REGISTER NOW FOR 2019-20
PRESCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN

Kindergarten: Call your child’s school for registration information. (School phone #s are on the last page of this Communique).
4-Year-Old Preschool: Call the PrePrimary Center at 923-6411.

Congratulations to these Dow and Midland High Band and Orchestra students who received nominations to the Michigan Youth Arts Festival. These nominations were based on the students’ stand-out performances at MSBOA State Solo and Ensemble on March 16. Students could be nominated for the Honors Band or Honors Orchestra. They could also be invited to audition as an Outstanding Soloist or an Outstanding Small Ensemble.

**HONORS BAND**
- Carina Gallagher - Flute - Midland High
- Emilia Teed - Flute - Dow High
- Peter Redman - Flute - Dow High
- Irene Cline - Horn - Midland High
- Dom Servinski - Horn - Midland High

**HONORS ORCHESTRA**
- Justin Taylor - Trombone - Midland High
- Jocelyn Cha - Violin - Dow High
- Madeline Poupard - Violin - Dow High
- Caleb Qiu - Violin - Dow High
- Abigail Ahn - Violin - Dow High
- Tia Li - Viola - Dow High
- Rebekah Stanley - Viola - Midland High
- Nathaniel Kalantar - Cello - Dow High

**OUTSTANDING SOLOIST**
- Cara Gallagher - Flute - Midland High
- Carina Gallagher - Flute - Midland High
- Peter Redman - Clarinet - Dow High
- Joshua Burr - Trumpet - Dow High
- Irene Cline - Horn - Midland High
- Ethan Dotson - Horn - Midland High
- Justin Taylor - Trombone - Midland High
- Caleb Qiu - Violin - Dow High
- Tia Li - Viola - Dow High
- Nathaniel Kalantar - Cello - Dow High

**OUTSTANDING SMALL ENSEMBLES**
- Carina Gallagher - Flute Quintet - Midland High
- John Marinan - Marimba Trio - Midland High
- Caleb Qiu, Abigail Ahn, Tia Li, and Nathaniel Kalantar - String Quartet - Dow High
- Caleb Qiu, Madeline Poupard, Abigail Ahn, Abigail Yoo, Grace Chae, Shiva Sreeram, Hannah Loiselle, Andrew Zhou, Carina Gipson, Tia Li, Jashvi Desai, Nathaniel Kalantar, Neil Janwani, Joshua Thomas, Rebecca Kowalczyk, and Emily Savage - Chamber Orchestra - Dow High; Justin Taylor - Brass Chamber Ensemble - Midland High
The Board of Education of Midland Public Schools is proud to announce the successful sale of its 2019 School Building and Site Bonds, Series II, in the amount of $34,930,000 as authorized by the voters of the School District on February 24, 2015. The 2019 School Building and Site Bonds, Series II, representing the second series of bonds under the 2015 voter authorization, will be used for the purpose of defraying the cost of installing security measures for, remodeling, furnishing and refurnishing, and equipping and re-equipping school buildings; erecting, furnishing and equipping additions to school buildings; acquiring and installing instructional technology and instructional technology equipment for school buildings; purchasing school buses; developing and improving playgrounds, play fields, athletic fields and facilities, parking and driveway areas and sites, and paying the costs of issuing the Bonds.

In preparing to sell the 2019 School Building and Site Bonds, Series II, the School District, working with their municipal advisor, PFM Financial Advisors LLC, requested that S&P Global Ratings, acting through Standard and Poor's Financial Services LLC (“S&P”) evaluate the School District’s credit quality. S&P assigned the School District the underlying rating of "A+" with a stable outlook. The rating agency cited the School District's good income and very strong market value per capita, supported by a stable local economy with a strong industrial and manufacturing presence; very strong available reserves, and low-to-moderate debt in their rationale for rating of the School District at this level.

Midland Public Schools thanks our voters for approving the 2.95 mills Bond in February 2015. Series I funds have been working hard since the spring of 2015 to improve and update security, buildings, technology, transportation, infrastructure and much more. We look forward to getting started on the projects using Series II bonds, which will tackle the scope of work earmarked for MPS elementary and secondary buildings, stadium, technology, infrastructure and transportation.

The School District's financing was conducted by the Michigan investment banking office of the brokerage firm, Stifel, the financial advising firm, PFM Financial Advisors LLC and the law firm serving as bond counsel, Thrun Law Firm, P.C. The School District's 2019 School Building and Site Bonds, Series II, were sold at a true interest rate of 3.19% with a final maturity of 2039 (a repayment term of approximately 20 years).

Brodie Killian, Managing Director with Stifel, states, "Midland Public Schools' Bonds were sold at an opportune time in the bond market. The District was able to enter the bond market after a recent decline in interest rates. The financing met the goals of the District and resulted in a cost of borrowing that was considerably lower than originally anticipated."

Congratulations to Jefferson Art Teacher Carrie Keeley who had two pieces, “Iris and Cabbage Butterflies” and “Change in Blue,” accepted in the 55th annual art exhibition co-sponsored by the Michigan Education Association and Michigan Art Education Association. Her lovely “Change in Blue” was chosen as part of the MEA Purchase Awards and will be on display at the MEA headquarters in East Lansing for the next three years and then will go on display at the regional offices. Congratulations, Carrie!

MPS High School Spring Musicals at Central Auditorium!

April 11-13: "NEWSIES" by Midland High
April 25-27: “CINDERELLA” by HH Dow High
Join us for these fun productions!
Midland District Robotics Event Results


Team 5509 ‘Like a Boss’ finished the qualification matches ranked 9th and was the captain of the 6th ranked Alliance for playoffs. Their Alliance played well together to advance through the finals and win the District event! Midland High’s team is in its 5th year and is coached by MHS Math Teacher Ben Younkin.

Team 2619, The Charge, won the Autonomous Award, which celebrates a team that has demonstrated consistent, reliable, high performance robot operation during autonomously managed actions. Dow High’s Team 2619 was also part of the 8th ranked Alliance, which advanced to quarterfinals of the playoffs. Dow High’s team is coached by DHS Math Teacher Sean Murray, and this is The Charge’s 12th year of competition.

THANK YOU to the Dow High staff and students for their support and flexibility, which helped make this event possible. Thanks also to our partner host teams – 3770 from Bullock Creek, 4819 from Mt. Pleasant, 5166 from Freeland and 5712 from Hemlock!

2019 MPS High School graduation ceremonies will be held at Dow Diamond
Wednesday, May 29.

Midland High at 4:30 pm
HH Dow High at 7:30 pm

(In case of inclement weather requiring graduation to be held indoors, the ceremonies will be held in each high school’s respective gymnasium at 7:00 pm.)
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>Coach, Assistant, Volleyball</td>
<td>HH Dow HS</td>
<td>until filled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coach, Head, Pom Pon, Fall/Winter</td>
<td>HH Dow HS</td>
<td>until filled</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coach, Head, Soccer</td>
<td>HH Dow HS</td>
<td>until filled</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coach, Tennis, Boys’, Assistant</td>
<td>HH Dow HS</td>
<td>until filled</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elementary Curriculum and Instructional Specialist</td>
<td>Admin. Center</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>Preschool Teaching Associate</td>
<td>Carpenter School</td>
<td>until filled</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sign Language Interpreter</td>
<td>District Wide</td>
<td>until filled</td>
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<tr>
<td>Summer Grounds (Temporary)</td>
<td>District-wide</td>
<td>until filled</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supervisor of Special Education</td>
<td>Special Services</td>
<td>until filled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher, Art</td>
<td>District-wide</td>
<td>until filled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher, Science</td>
<td>District-wide</td>
<td>until filled</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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](https://www.midlandps.org/Content/Employment%20Opportunities)

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](https://www.midlandps.org/shining-star-nomination-form)

**LOOKING AHEAD THIS MONTH**

⇒ Thursday, April 18: **HALF DAY OF SCHOOL**
⇒ Friday, April 19: **NO SCHOOL**

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/](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](https://sites.google.com/midlandps.org/communityflyers)

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

**wise thought to ponder ...**

“Spring is when you feel like whistling even with a shoe full of slush.”

— Doug Larson