Two Very Important Surveys …

⇒ MPS Student/Family Remote Learning Readiness Survey (All MPS Families)
   It is important that every family respond to this short survey about your home’s on-line connectivity so that MPS personnel can determine how to proceed in the coming weeks in order to best support your child(ren). This survey only needs to be done one time per family (unless shared custody arrangements would result in different responses). Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. Here is the link: https://forms.gle/bvLKCuPfbxxrqfJc6

⇒ Class of 2020 Commencement Ceremony (Families with 2020 Grads Only)
   MPS is formally delaying our Class of 2020 Commencement date. We still plan to recognize the Class of 2020 for their many accomplishments. We believe delaying the ceremony date will allow us to make the best possible decision for hosting a recognition and keep all students, faculty and family members safe. We have been studying several options and will be watching what universities are doing in their graduation ceremonies. If you are a 2020 graduating senior and/or a family member/friend of a 2020 graduating senior and plan to attend, please participate in this brief survey regarding 2020 graduation: https://forms.gle/w7GTgULq9cVUir9f7

Midland Public Schools Continuity of Learning Plan

As Friday’s Special Edition Communique stated, MPS is required to provide a Continuity of Learning Plan to the Michigan Department of Education. We started this plan in anticipation of the Governor’s order.

⇒ We will have the final draft of this Continuity of Learning Plan ready for all staff this week, approved by the MPS Board of Education and released to the community by April 11.

⇒ Midland Public Schools plans to start our delivery of continuous learning on Monday April 13. It will be imperative for all parents to read this plan when released. It has pages of details that are vital, especially now more than ever, given that you are our partner and/or co-teacher in educating your child. If you didn’t have a chance to take a look at Friday’s SE Communique, Here is the link: https://www.midlandps.org//2020-04-03SECommunique

WE NEED TO HEAR FROM YOU THIS WEEK PLEASE

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION about teaching & learning for remainder of the 2019-20 school year

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
On March 31, Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer tweeted a link to her reading the great book ...

*M is for Michigan* by Annie Appleford.

If you have a young child, take a moment to click on this link and enjoy our Governor reading this beautiful book that honors our great State.

https://twitter.com/GovWhitmer/status/1244990148217053185

#### A Special Thank You

Thousands of nutritious meals were prepared and dispersed again last week for Midland community children. We send our sincere thanks to those on the front line of our food service during the closure. (Chartwells staff, MPS transportation staff members and the many volunteers being coordinated by the United Way of Midland County). One of the families that drove up recently shared this very special message with the staff & volunteers staffing this food distribution site.

#### 2020-2021 REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN FOR OUR DISTRICT’S YOUNGEST LEARNERS

**Two 4-Year Old Pre-School Programs Available.**

*Call MPS PrePrimary Center at Carpenter (923-6411) for info.*

- **IB-PYP Preschool:** Follows the IB-PYP foundation that is the framework used by all MPS elementary schools. This is a competitively priced tuition program.

- **Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP):** State-funded quality preschool free for income-qualifying families. (Member of Regional Preschool Partnership). Click here to register: www.michiganpreschool.org

**MPS Elementary Kindergarten Registration Now Open**

Call your neighborhood school for registration and program information. All of the MPS elementary schools are listed on the back page of this Communique.

**Healthy at Home**
Social Emotional Wellbeing Resources
Our wonderful Curriculum team pulled together some resources to support the Social and Emotional Wellbeing of MPS students and families during this unprecedented time in our world. Each week we will share a few different sites for you to refer to if you would like.

Parent Resources: https://sel.lab.uic.edu/parent-resources/
Every Monday Matters: https://everymondaymatters.org/curriculum-3/

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month
The following information came to my office from Safe & Sound Child Protection and Advocacy:

"April is Child Abuse Prevention Month! During #CAPMonth and throughout the year, all adults should work to ensure that every child has the equal opportunity to grow and reach their full potential. Safe and Sound has been working hard all year long to deliver an excellent #CAPMonth full of awareness, education, and connection. Well, we all know even the best laid plans can go awry. COVID-19 has thrown a wrench in a few of our plans but we are creatively and energetically working to bring you a fantastic virtual experience!

During Child Abuse Prevention Month, we encourage you to think of the connection between child development and economic development. When we invest in healthy child development, we invest in community and economic development, as flourishing children become the foundation of a thriving society.

The statistics are clear. Michigan’s children need our help now! Let’s give them a voice!
http://www.childhelp.org/pages/statistics/

When the entire community takes responsibility for creating healthy environments for children, we lay the foundation for growth and development. No child deserves to be neglected or abused. Support Safe and Sound Child Advocacy Center, Children’s Trust Fund Local Council, this #CAPMonth! “

Safe & Sound’s Website: www.safeandsoundcac.org
Anyone (including a child) who suspects child abuse or neglect, can make a report by calling 855-444-3911.

In addition to the Social Emotional resources on the left, the Michigan Department of Education has put together a list that is kept up-to-date. Here is the link with many resources if you are seeking something specific: https://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140--523548--,00.html

Family & Children’s Services of Mid-Michigan is providing FREE crisis counseling by phone for any resident of Midland County as well as individual counseling by phone or video session for current and new clients. Website: www.fcs-midland.org; Phone: 631-5390

We received word Friday afternoon that MHSAA officially canceled the remainder of the 2019-20 winter and spring athletic seasons in compliance with the April 2 “State of Disaster” directive by Gov. Whitmer. The letter went on to say that “This will be the first school year to not see MHSAA Finals played in multiple sports since 1942-43, when World War II led to the elimination of Finals in most sports.” “We are heartbroken to not be able to provide these opportunities for Michigan’s student-athletes, and especially seniors. We continue to hear from dozens asking us to hold out hope. But safety always must come first, and Governor Whitmer is making courageous decisions to safeguard the people of our state,” MHSAA Executive Director Mark Uyl said.

“We understand as much as anyone how much school sports mean to athletes and their communities. We had ideas and hopes for finishing Winter and Spring and helping bring some sort of normalcy after this long break. But this is the correct decision, and we will play our part in bringing schools and communities together again when the time is right.” “For now, we cannot state strongly enough that all students, staffs and others follow the guidelines established to slow the spread of this virus – we all must do our part.”

MPS student athlete families will be contacted soon about spring participation fee refunds.
During the Stay Safe, Stay Home Order, all Midland Public Schools playgrounds and athletic fields are CLOSED for the health and wellbeing of all as we all work together to stop the spread of COVID-19.

The Midland County COVID-19 Coalition has been established to provide a centralized location for Midland County residents to access COVID-19 resources for assistance, news, and volunteer opportunities. This health and economic crisis will impact our community in unforeseen ways. Through collaboration we can help assist our neighbors and community organizations in these difficult times.

For a full list of Midland County COVID-19 Coalition partners and resources visit reliefmidland.org

Looking for specific resources during the COVID-19 crisis? Northeast Michigan 211 is a great place to start ...

https://www.211nemichigan.org/

Visit the MPS website often for MPS COVID-19 updates: https://www.midlandps.org/Content2/covid-19-coronavirus-information

Child Care Access for Essential Workforce During the Covid-19 Emergency

Governor Whitmer announced an Executive Order to expand capacity for tuition-based child care services for health care workers, first responders and other members of the essential workforce. If you are a member of the essential workforce and are in need of tuition-based child care, go to www.helpmegrow-mi.org/essential and your information will be routed to someone in your community who can help you find care. To all essential workers in Michigan, we say thank you for your service during this crisis!

April 1, 2020 is Census Day! Have you had a chance to go to www.2020census.gov yet? The 2020 Census is happening now. You can respond online, by phone or by USPS mail. You probably received your invitation in your mailbox at home to respond to the 2020 Census earlier this month. This mailing included detailed information and a Census ID for completing the Census online at www.2020census.gov. If you would prefer to complete the census by paper or phone instead of online, click on this link for information: https://2020census.gov/en/ways-to-respond.html

It takes just a few minutes to complete the 9-question survey. The results help determine how billions of dollars in federal funding flow into states and communities each year for education, roads, hospitals, libraries and more. Please keep in mind, if your household does not complete the survey soon, between April and July you will receive reminder postcards/letters in your mailbox. In addition, between May and August Census Bureau employees will visit the households that have not completed the survey. It really is quick and easy. We hope you will complete the census today.

Student Personal Items Located In the School

Our principals are developing formal plans to have student personal items returned to students and/or parents. It is our plan to wait until the Stay Safe, Stay Home Order is lifted before allowing this to occur. If a student has an item they need immediately and cannot wait, we are asking parents to email their Principal. The Principal will retrieve the item for you and have a curbside pickup process. When we do bring students in to retrieve items after the Stay Home order is lifted, we will require a temperature scan and allow only a few students at a time as scheduled. Stay tuned for a communication from your Principal in the near future with additional details.

April 6, 2020

Midland Public Schools
600 East Carpenter
Midland, Michigan 48640

MPS Website: www.midlandps.org
Twitter: @MichaelSharrow2 @MidlandPS
YouTube Channel: https://www.youtube.com/user/MidlandPublicSchools

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

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

“People grow through experience if they meet life honestly and courageously. This is how character is built.” — Eleanor Roosevelt