Last Week’s Surveys …

⇒ **MPS Student/Family Remote Learning Readiness Survey**

IF YOU DIDN’T HAVE A CHANCE TO RESPOND TO THIS SURVEY LAST WEEK, PLEASE DO SO NOW!

So far we have had over 2,700 responses, however, we have approximately 7,700 students. 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/bvLKCuPlbxxrWqJo6](https://forms.gle/bvLKCuPlbxxrWqJo6)

⇒ **Class of 2020 Commencement Ceremony (Families with 2020 Grads Only)**

This survey has now been closed. Thank you to everyone who responded! The results gave us a great feel for the type of graduation celebration the vast majority of our graduates and their families would prefer. We received 1,778 responses. 86.8% prefer a formal graduation ceremony in late July/early August

- 6.5% prefer an earlier date via a virtual graduation with student recognition
- 6.6% responded that either option is okay with them

Based on these results, we will begin to make plans for a late July/early August graduation ceremony to celebrate our 2020 graduates. Stay tuned for further graduation information in the coming weeks. Please keep in mind that as decisions/plans are made, the health situation at the time will be an important component of 2020 graduation arrangements.

As you know, MPS loves to “toot our own horn” about the amazing accomplishments of our staff & students. We submitted this article that ran in today’s *Midland Daily News Community Connections!* We hope you will take a look at just some of the noteworthy memories from the MPS 2019-20 school year highlighted in this lengthy article: *Midland Public Schools reflects on a memorable school year* … [https://digital.olivesoftware.com/Olive/ODN/MidlandDailyNews/shared/ShowArticle.aspx?doc=HMDN%2F2020%2F04%2F13&entity=Ar00603&sk=1BFD42EE&mode=text](https://digital.olivesoftware.com/Olive/ODN/MidlandDailyNews/shared/ShowArticle.aspx?doc=HMDN%2F2020%2F04%2F13&entity=Ar00603&sk=1BFD42EE&mode=text)

Midland Public Schools Continuity of Learning Plan

In the Thursday, April 9, 2020 Special Edition Communique, you received the MPS Continuity of Learning Plan outlining how MPS child(ren) will receive academically focused remote learning experiences to maximize student learning and growth through the end of the school year, while still maintaining a deep and consistent focus on student mental health and overall wellbeing.

**THIS CONTINUITY OF LEARNING PLAN BEGINS TODAY.** Here is the link to the SE Communique if you would like to take another look at the plan: [https://www.midlandps.org/2020-04-09secommunique](https://www.midlandps.org/2020-04-09secommunique). If you have any questions along the way, please reach out to your child(ren)’s teachers and/or principal via email. If you don’t have their email address, here is a link to the MPS Staff Directory: [https://www.midlandps.org/staff](https://www.midlandps.org/staff).

We know these are stressful and unprecedented times, but please know MPS is committed to partnering with you to create the highest level of educational opportunities and personal wellbeing for your child(ren)!

**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)
Have a broken MPS Chromebook?

Virtual Support — The MPS Technology Team is providing virtual support to staff and families during the extended school shutdown from 8:00 AM-4:30 PM MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY. For virtual support M-F, you can call the Help Desk and leave a voicemail message—(989) 923-5119 or send an email to help@midlandps.org.

Limited Device Physical Support — The MPS tech team is providing support for physically broken devices. Tech Team representatives will be onsite MONDAY, WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM at the MPS Administration Center (600 E Carpenter Street). The drop-off and pick-up point will be the Admin Building Receiving Room doors in the parking lot between the Admin Building and the bus lot. This parking lot may be accessed from either George St. or State St. A cart with bins will be available to help everyone adhere to the minimum 6' personal space rule. We will repair devices as quickly as possible and contact you with the pick-up information when it is ready. Please call the Help Desk at (989)923-5119 in advance and leave a voicemail message to let us know about the problem you are experiencing to expedite this process.

Information for families with children receiving Special Education Services … The following link was provided by the Michigan Department of Education and “provides a fact sheet for a number of strategies to use at home to help children settle into time away from school and into new routines, and to reduce worry and anxiety.” Navigating Extended Time Away From School: Information for Families With Children Receiving Special Education Services.

Parent/Guardian Email Address — Do we have your accurate email address?
During this closure, it is vital that we have parents’ correct contact information, especially email addresses. If you have recently changed your email address, would you please log into Home Access Center, and then select Registration, Edit. After updating the email address, click SAVE. Home Access Center link: https://hac.midlandps.org/HomeAccess/Account/LogOn?ReturnUrl=%2fHomeAccess%2f

Looking for Internet Connectivity?
If you do not have internet connectivity in your home currently, here are some resources that may be able to help:
⇒ AT&T WiFi Access: https://www.att.com/support/article/wireless/KM1103818
⇒ Charter Spectrum broadband and Wi-Fi Access for 60 days: 1-844-488-8395
⇒ Sprint/T-Mobile: https://www.t-mobile.com/news

Because of the Stay Safe, Stay Home order, the annual Midland Public Schools’ Gerstacker Teacher Proficiency Awards ceremony originally scheduled for April 30 is CANCELLED. Thank you to everyone who submitted nominations. The 2020 Gerstacker recipients will be announced and celebrated at the 2020-21 MPS Opening Staff Meeting the morning of August 25 at Central Auditorium. — Gerstacker Awards Committee

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.

Stay strong, because things will get better. It might be stormy now, but it can’t rain forever.
The MPS 2020-21 Schools of Choice application window is now open for In-District and Out-of-District students. If you would like more information, go to our website and click as follows:

www.midlandps.org ➔ Community ➔ Schools of Choice

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.

- SEL in Homes & Communities: https://casel.org/homes-and-communities/

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. Children need our help now! Let’s give them a voice! https://www.childhelp.org/child-abuse-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

The ROCK — Creatively Connecting Virtually

The ROCK has started virtual out-of-school time programs to help keep teens engaged during the COVID-19 closure. This program is open to ALL middle and high school students (do not have to have been ROCK participants in the past). http://www.therockc4yd.org/virtual/

Music Lessons
Learn about playing the guitar or other stringed instrument!

Mon, April 13
2:00 pm

Minecraft Pizza Party!
Join The ROCK online for Minecraft. First 40 students who join get a free pizza certificate from Domino’s!
Fri, April 17
7:00 pm

Here are a couple examples of ways The ROCK is creatively connecting this week.
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 (currently May 1) 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.

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.

Looking for specific resources during the COVID-19 crisis?
Northeast Michigan 211 is a great place to start...
https://www.211nemichigan.org/

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

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

Future Local Food Pantries

May 21, 2020
Trinity Lutheran Church
3701 Jefferson Ave, Midland
Registration: 9:00
Distribution: 11:30
Sponsor: Trinity Lutheran

June 24, 2020
Blessed Sacrament Church
3109 Ashman, Midland
Registration: 9:30
Distribution: 11:00
Sponsor: Blessed Sacrament Church

July 25, 2020
Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church
3516 E Monroe Rd, Midland
Registration: 9:00
Distribution: 11:30
Sponsor: Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church

(Day you to Kurt Faust for providing this information!)

Dolly Parton, generous gifter of the Imagination Library books for children from birth through age 5, has recorded herself reading a number of amazing children’s books. Click on this link if your young child would enjoy having Dolly read, “The Little Engine That Could” to him/her.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tT9fv_ELbnE

Northeast Michigan 211
https://www.211nemichigan.org/

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wise thought to ponder …

“With the new day comes new strength and new thoughts.”
— Eleanor Roosevelt