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.

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

CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES 2020 MIDLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS GRADUATES!

Your MPS family is so proud of you and your amazing accomplishments during your Grade K-12 journey. Friday (May 22) was the Class of 2020’s final official day of classes. MPS has planned a few different ways to honor our 2020 Graduates:
⇒ Friday Night Lights at Midland Community Stadium in April
⇒ Yard signs provided by the DHS/MHS Athletic Boosters
⇒ 2020 Graduate Spotlight on the MPS website very soon
⇒ 2020 Graduate photos scrolling on the Midland Center for the Arts digital sign. The photos were going to start scrolling today, however, the Midland Center for the Arts is currently without electricity. Stay tuned. We will get information to you as soon as we have the dates that DHS & MHS senior photos will scroll on the MCFTA digital sign.

Stay tuned 2020 grads for info to come your way soon about the rescheduled 2020 graduation ceremony tentatively set for July 24 at Dow Diamond.

 Needless to say, the last third of your senior was certainly not what we expected or wanted for you, however, this accomplished group of seniors handled it with grace and poise. As you leave us to accomplish your educational, career and personal goals, please know our very best wishes for success & happiness are going with you!

Congrats
2020 MPS Grads...
We are proud of YOU!

MPS Students and Families directly impacted by last week’s flooding … you are in our thoughts!

Over and over we have seen the outpouring of love and support to the folks in Midland and neighboring communities directly affected by the flood waters that came raging down the Tittabawassee River last week.

We are so thankful that there was no loss of life, however, we also know that the clean up after a tragedy that brings such force, mud and debris is overwhelming and staggering. Your MPS Family is with you!

Learning the Final Two Weeks of 2019-20
MPS will resume its Continuity of Learning Plan tomorrow—Wednesday, May 27, 2020 for those who can participate. Teachers understand if students are struggling with the flood and are not able to participate, they are to be extended grace. All concepts being taught will be completed by Friday, May 29, 2020 and follow-up and year-end activities will conclude on June 5. Our teaching staff will be participating in Professional Development over the next few weeks to prepare for instruction for the 2020-21 school year. MPS is in the final stages of planning summer learning opportunities that include tutoring, PSAT/SAT Prep, and more. We plan to have more detailed information and registration available next week.

Do you have an MPS Chromebook/Device affected by last week’s flooding? If so, we ask that you bring your damaged device to the MPS Administration Center (600 E. Carpenter Street). Please park in the back parking lot and look for the double doors by the blue recycling dumpster. The Help Desk staff will be available to assist you Tuesday through Friday this week from 8am to 4pm. If your device was lost in the flooding, please call our Help Desk at 989-923-5119.
SAT with Essay, PSAT/NMSQT and PSAT 8/9
The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) and the College Board will provide fall 2020 testing for high school students as makeup for the cancelled spring 2020 assessment administrations. The MDE will pay for the tests and scoring. The table below shows the authorized assessments for students based on their grade level in the fall of 2020, and Midland Public Schools will require these assessments for all students grades 9-12. A more specific testing schedule will be shared in the coming weeks.

Please Note: All juniors and seniors will be required to complete the full Michigan Merit Examination in Spring 2021 as this is a graduation requirement. All freshmen and sophomores will be required to take the PSAT 8/9 and PSAT 10, respectively in Spring 2021. More details about the spring assessment schedule will be released in the future.

For students who wish to have additional practice for the PSAT and SAT, Khan Academy is a great resource. Students can access Khan Academy with the MPS login credentials through the Clever page found on the MPS website.

### Fall 2020 High School Testing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Grade Fall 2020</th>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Primary Test Date Options*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grade 9</td>
<td>PSAT 8/9</td>
<td>September 21—October 28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 10</td>
<td>PSAT/NMSQT</td>
<td>October 14 or October 28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 11</td>
<td>PSAT/NMSQT</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 12</td>
<td>SAT with Essay</td>
<td>September 23 or October 14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Districts will choose a single test date for each test from among these options.

**IMPORTANT NOTES:**

⇒ For students in grade 11, the PSAT/NMSQT will provide an opportunity to enter the National Merit Scholarship if the student has a qualifying score.

⇒ We will have the exact testing dates for next fall in a week or two. As soon as we have the exact dates, we will send them your way so you can add them to your fall calendar.

The MPS 2020-21 Schools of Choice application window is open for In-District and Out-of-District students.

If you would like more info, visit our website: [www.midlandps.org](http://www.midlandps.org)

⇒ Community

⇒ Schools of Choice

Looking for specific resources during your family’s flood recovery or related to the COVID-19 crisis? Northeast Michigan 211 is a great place to start… [https://www.211nemichigan.org/](https://www.211nemichigan.org/)

⇒ Have a broken MPS Chromebook? Click on this link for virtual and physical support information: [https://www.midlandps.org/News/499#sthash.JxBrsgN.dpbs](https://www.midlandps.org/News/499#sthash.JxBrsgN.dpbs)

⇒ Was your MPS issued Chromebook/Device damaged by last week’s flood? If so, we ask that you bring your damaged device to the MPS Administration Center (600 E. Carpenter Street). See page 1 of this Communique for more info.
We all know that during this school year, the MPS’ emphasis was on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and, as a District, made #keepitkindmps and "Be the I in Kind" a major theme for students and staff.

Through this past week, we can honestly say that kindness is alive and well in Midland, Michigan!

We witnessed firsthand so many acts of kindness last week. This semi of water was one of three received from the Nestle Company. The sign in the forefront that greeted those unloading the semi says, “Praying for all of you 😊 Shari.” The outpouring of kindness and love at the MHS Emergency Shelter last week was monumental. Thank you to all who donated food and other personal care items. Thank you to current and past MPS Board of Education members, MPS administrators and staff, medical professionals, Chartwells food service staff, community volunteers and organizations who helped to make the shelter as welcoming and accommodating as possible for the 100-150 individuals who made the MHS gym their home for several days. The temporary shelter is now closed and the residents (and their pets) have been relocated to more permanent accommodations. MPS stepped up and gave our fellow ‘Midlanders’ a safe, warm port in a scary storm. We can all be very proud of our Midland Public Schools District!

Governor Whitmer visited the Midland High Emergency Shelter last week and then conducted a news conference in front of MHS.

Thank you, Midland Daily News, for the above photo.

Thank you to MHS Yearbook Advisor, Becky King, for these photos.

"We rise by lifting others."
~Robert Ingersoll

Most of these photos were courtesy of Midland Daily News.

Kindness abounds in Midland, Michigan!
SVSU held their annual Chief Science Officer (CSO) Celebration virtually last week. Congratulations to these MPS students/CSOs who were recognized for their incredible accomplishments. Because of the current COVID-19 climate, the event was held virtually and streamed live on Facebook. Congratulations to these accomplished CSOs!

**Ava Nelson - Innovative CSO Award**

The Innovative CSO award is given to a CSO who has individually implemented an action plan with dramatic impact. This year’s awardee started a tradition 3 years ago of bringing local elementary students and their families together for a Community Flight Night. She collaborated with community leaders and schools to coordinate logistics, contacted aviation professionals, and confirmed that the activities aligned with current class curriculum. In addition, this CSO has ensured that the event will go on even after she no longer leads it, by working closely with all of the individuals involved. Finally, this CSO was recognized as a “Girl Living STEM” by the National STEM Ecosystems during their convening in Cleveland last fall. **Congratulations, CSO Ava from H.H. Dow High School, as our Innovative CSO this year!**

**Al Kanar & Meredith Perala - Innovative CSO Team Award**

The Innovative CSO Team award is given to a CSO team that implemented an action plan with dramatic impact. This year’s Innovative Team was able to complete not one, but TWO action plans before Covid-19 hit. They developed a CSO committee at their school and also planned and implemented a STEM Career Day for all 8th grade students at their school. These CSOs worked together to lead the committee and their leadership skills created enthusiasm among the committee members who are very excited for next year! Their advisor, Mrs. Lenon, says that their leadership has inspired her as well. **Congratulations to CSOs Meredith and Al from Northeast Middle School!**

**Taryn Vielma - Legacy CSO Award**

The Legacy CSO award is given to a graduating senior who has made a lasting impact on their school or community. This year, I am pleased to present this award to CSO Taryn for her tireless commitment to the success of the CSO program at Midland High School. Taryn started the first ever dissection club at her school – they were able to complete 3 dissections this year, including a pretty amazing squid dissection! Taryn promoted the club through the **Midland High CSO Twitter page** and says that in order to be successful, there needs to be an immense amount of communication and organization! She plans to pursue this passion as a microbiology major at MSU next fall.

Chief Science Officers in their home schools serve as a voice for STEM, bring STEM opportunities to their peers, work collective on action projects, and much more!

**Midland High 2020 Senior/Graduate, Ethan Dotson**, was selected to play the French Horn in the Marine Corps Band, which is an amazing feat directly out of high school. Many who try out have already earned their undergraduate degree. Ethan has been playing the French Horn for seven years. He also plays the ukulele, guitar, oboe and piano. In addition, he sings Tenor and was section leader in Meistersingers this school year.

Ethan will be in Parris Island for his 13-week basic training, do a month-long combat training and then spend six months at the Naval School of Music.

**High School Summer eLearning Opportunity**

Once school has ended for the school year, Midland Public Schools will once again be offering the Summer eLearning Program. Through this program, online courses are available to high school students who wish to earn either initial credit or credit recovery in select courses. Registration information is now available. Our online program provides students the opportunity to recover lost credits or explore new learning through online courses which students can work on 24/7! The program will heed all safety recommendations set forth by the state. While these courses do not require students to attend classes daily, student support will be provided by email, phone call or video chat. On-site support will become available based on State of Michigan recommendations but will not be required for daily work, quizzes or tests, however, exams must be monitored. Exams will be proctored onsite (when appropriate) or virtually by appointment. Students should expect to invest 45-60 hours to complete each course, but may work on their course any place that they have an internet connection. Courses will begin on June 15, 2020 and must be completed by August 13, 2020. Students may only register for one course at a time. The cost for each course is $150 for Midland Public Schools’ students and $175 for students outside of the MPS district. If you would like additional information or would like to register for a course, please visit [www.midlandps.org/content/Summer%20Program](http://www.midlandps.org/content/Summer%20Program). For more information, contact Principal Jeff Lauer at lauerjm@midlandps.org.

Best Wishes, Ethan!

We are proud of you!
SOCIAL EMOTIONAL WELLBEING

Important phone numbers

- Child Abuse & Neglect Hotline: 1-855-444-3911
- Michigan Suicide Hotline: 1-800-273-8255 or text HOME to 741741
- Michigan Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-799-7233

If you need more support, contact your school’s phone number on the last page of this Communiqué to connect with your school counselor or family intervention specialist.

WHAT CAN I CONTROL?

In times of uncertainty, people try to control their environment, but realizing and accepting what you cannot control can help one to have more energy to focus on what you can control.

What can I control during these uncertain times?

- How I treat others
- What I eat and drink
- How I cope
- How I stay healthy
- How I support my community
- How much time I watch/read the news

When you are worrying about the future, focus on one thought at a time. Ask yourself, can I control this? If you can control the outcome - come up with a plan or take action. If you cannot control the outcome - use a coping skill to help you manage these worries.

Coping skills to help you manage your worries -

- Relaxation, deep breathing - https://www.helpguide.org/articles/stress/relaxation-techniques-for-stress-relief.htm
- Focus on your 5 senses to ground you - https://copingskillsforkids.com/blog/2016/4/27/coping-skill-spotlight-5-4-3-2-1-grounding-technique
- Meditations, mindfulness - https://www.mindful.org/meditation/mindfulness-getting-started/
- Physical activity
- Using your social support
- Hobby, music, books

“Mindfulness means paying attention in a particular way: on purpose, in the present moment, and nonjudgmentally.” - John Kabat-Zinn

The MPS DSA NOMINATION WINDOW IS NOW OPEN!

NOMINATION DEADLINE IS JUNE 12, 2020

The Midland Public Schools’ Distinguished Service Awards (DSA) were established to honor MPS support personnel.

Here is the link for 2020 DSA Information: https://www.midlandps.org/2020-DSA-Announcement

The following MPS employee groups are eligible for nomination: Administrative Assistant/Office Professional, Grounds, Manager, Maintenance, Paraprofessional, Technician, Transportation.

This award is separate from the Gerstacker Teacher Proficiency Award. Support staff only are eligible for this award.

(Please do not nominate an administrator or teacher; they are not eligible for this award.)

Here is a link to the on-line nomination form: https://forms.gle/9m3g9fMTKkJEQt7h9

Nominate a great MPS “support staffer” today!

Thank you to the Rollin M. Gerstacker Foundation for making the MPS Distinguished Service Awards possible!
NOW IS THE TIME TO REGISTER FOR 2020-21 4-YEAR-OLD PRESCHOOL & KINDERGARTEN

MPS has proven programs that provide a SOLID EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION for our community’s youngest learners!

**Two 4-Year-Old MPS Preschool Programs:** (923-6411)

**International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme**
Proven, inquiry-based reasonably-priced tuition preschool that follows the IB PYP foundation at all MPS elementary schools. MPS invites you to compare our fees against area preschools. We are confident you will find MPS offers a great value!

**Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP)**
Results-driven, high-quality, FREE preschool for 4-year-old students from income-qualifying families. Regional Preschool Partnership — GSRP Questions: (844) 492-7707 or (989) 923-6411 GSRP Registration Open: [www.michiganpreschool.org](http://www.michiganpreschool.org)

For Preschool forms: [www.midlandps.org](http://www.midlandps.org) ➔ Parents ➔ Preschool

**MPS Kindergarten Program:** (923-5026)

Will your child be 5 before 9/1/2020? If so, now is the time to register him/her for the Fall of 2020 Kindergarten class.

If your child’s birthday is between 9/1/2020 and 12/1/2020, we have the waiver for you to complete so your child can be part of the Fall 2020 Kdg. class.

For Kindergarten forms: [www.midlandps.org](http://www.midlandps.org) ➔ Parents ➔ Kindergarten

### Upcoming Local Food Pantries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 28, 2020</td>
<td>North Midland Family Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 4, 2020</td>
<td>West Midland Family Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 5, 2020</td>
<td>Aldersgate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 24, 2020</td>
<td>Blessed Sacrament</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 25, 2020</td>
<td>North Midland Family Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 2, 2020</td>
<td>West Midland Family Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 8, 2020</td>
<td>Aldersgate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 9, 2020</td>
<td>Coleman Family Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 23, 2020</td>
<td>Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 26, 2020</td>
<td>North Midland Family Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 4, 2020</td>
<td>Midland High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 21, 2020</td>
<td>Aldersgate</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Dolly Parton, generous gifter of the Imagination Library books for children from birth through age 5, has recorded herself reading a number of fun children’s books.

Click on this link if your young child would enjoy hearing Dolly read, “Violet the Pilot” by Steve Breen

[https://youtu.be/mGXxlQ3quGA](https://youtu.be/mGXxlQ3quGA)

### Upcoming Local Food Pantries

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Midland Public Schools
600 East Carpenter
Midland, Michigan 48640

MPS Website:
[www.midlandps.org](http://www.midlandps.org)

Twitter:
@MichaelSharrow2
@MidlandPS

YouTube Channel:
[https://www.youtube.com/user/MidlandPublicSchools](https://www.youtube.com/user/MidlandPublicSchools)

Student Flyers:
[https://sites.google.com/midlandps.org/studentflyers/](https://sites.google.com/midlandps.org/studentflyers/)

Community Flyers:
[https://sites.google.com/midlandps.org/communityflyers](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

**wise thought to ponder …**

“Those who bring sunshine into the lives of others cannot keep it from themselves.”

—James M. Barrie