INCLUSION & DIVERSITY (I & D) UPDATE

At the Monday, May 20 Board of Education meeting, Associate Superintendent Penny Miller-Nelson and MPS Inclusion & Diversity partner Lee Ann Keller, shared info about the ongoing work of the MPS I & D Committee.

A lot of powerful information was shared.

One important piece of the presentation included the MPS I & D VISION …

Committee thoughts about the I & D VISION:

- EVERYONE really means EVERYONE
- We think of this VISION through the lens of race, ethnicity, culture, gender, ability, socio-economic factors, SOGI, and all other factors to be considered in the range of human differences.
- VALUED is an important word in this statement because it goes beyond tolerance and acceptance and moves us into a space of understanding and appreciating one another’s differences and strengths and diverse perspectives …

- Please take a few moments to watch the presentation. https://youtu.be/xi99aXjZB8s

- I & D is not just relevant for MPS! It is an “issue” of our times… our schools, our community, our state, our country, our world!

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT WEDNESDAY’S MPS GRADUATION CEREMONIES

Given this week’s forecasts we are watching the weather closely to determine if Wednesday’s graduation ceremonies will be held at Dow Diamond or inside our high school gyms.

On the front page of the MPS website (www.midlandps.org):

- THIS EVENING—Tuesday (5/28) at 5:00 pm—we will release our best “prediction” of tomorrow’s graduation venue;
- TOMORROW MORNING—Wednesday (5/29) by 10:00 am—we will release our “final decision” of the 2019 MPS graduation venue.

Graduation times for inside or outside ceremonies:

- MIDLAND HIGH SCHOOL — 4:30 pm inside MHS Gym or outside at Dow Diamond
- HH DOW HIGH SCHOOL – 7:00 pm in the DHS Gym; 7:30 pm at Dow Diamond

Ticket Information: Graduating Seniors have received 6 reserved tickets.

- At Dow Diamond, in addition to the 6 tickets, others are welcome to come and sit in the general seating areas.
- In the school gym (because of fire codes and seating capacity) the 6 reserved ticket holders ONLY will be able to attend inside the gym.

At the Monday, May 20 MPS Board of Education meeting, Board and audience members heard a wonderful presentation, “Expanding Global Citizenship through MPS Culture Clubs.” The Culture Club Directors and presenters were Kim McMahan, World Language Teacher at Adams ES, and Karen Staley, Jefferson MS Math & Language Arts Teacher. Thank you also to these students who presented information about their experience in their school’s Culture Club:

- Jefferson MS: Juliana Vargas, Annabelle Wilken, Noah Staley, and Luke McMahan
- Adams ES: Tega Kamatoy, Drew Thornton, Priya Ghose and Rhyannah Nunamaker
- Siebert ES: Ashwin Vemury and Ricky Wang

(Nicole Fisher, Siebert Culture Club Staff Director, was unable to attend)
We would like to congratulate Mr. Lee Leffingwell, who will be retiring at the end of June as the Electronic Learning Facilitator at MHS. Mr. Leffingwell started with the program when it began ten years ago. He has been a vital part of its development and growth over that time. His expertise and desire to make a difference for the students of MPS will be missed. We wish him well in his retirement!

With Mr. Leffingwell’s departure, we welcome Mr. Frankie Ardelean to the team. Mr. Ardelean is a recent grad of CMU with a Bachelor of Science in Education degree with Secondary Certification in Math and History. He student taught at Dow High and comes highly recommended. His mathematics background will be helpful for our online students.

### CHINESE ART EXCHANGE

The 3rd and 4th graders at Woodcrest participated in the Chinese Art Exchange Program through the MSU Extension offices. Students looked at Chinese artifacts with Mr. Wang in January and drew pictures with Mrs. Hall and Ms. Klykken in February and March. Students researched locations in Midland and around the State of Michigan that were special to them. They illustrated a picture to tell a story about Michigan and to teach children in China about the Michigan culture. Woodcrest had eleven pieces of artwork sent to MSU for further judging. We are excited to announce that eight students from Woodcrest will have their artwork go to China as a gift.

- Mya Pfenninger, Owen King, Isabelle Schmelzer, Peyton Hardner, Heidie Fix, Danielle Folkenroth, Ana Rutterbush, and Brady Kosberg.

Krew Bills, Olga Artemenko, and Kaelyn Cole represented Woodcrest by having their artwork sent to MSU.

### MPS DSA NOMINATION WINDOW IS NOW OPEN!

**NOMINATION DEADLINE IS JUNE 14, 2019**

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

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 a teacher; they are not eligible for this award.*

Additional DSA information is available on the MPS website (www.midlandps.org). Here is a link to the on-line nomination form: [https://forms.gle/ueiDPDrv3SBDbR8](https://forms.gle/ueiDPDrv3SBDbR8)

Nominate a great MPS “support staffer” today!

*Thank you to the Rollin M. Gerstacker Foundation for making the MPS Distinguished Service Awards possible!*
Last week, Ms. Jacobs and Ms. Partanen’s classes from Jefferson Middle School enjoyed some time out in nature in the lovely Whiting Forest, the nation’s longest canopy walk that rises up to 40 feet above the ground. What a beautiful gem to have and enjoy in Midland!

May 28, 2019                         Page 3 of 5

Congrats, Chargers!!

Because of your many efforts to foster Environmental Stewardship, Energy Conservation and Sound Resource Use, HH Dow High School has met the requirements to earn the second-highest recognition as an Emerald Level Michigan Green School!

Governor Gretchen Whitmer has provided a Certificate of Recognition from the State of Michigan commending HH Dow High School for its efforts to be a true Michigan Green School!

Kudos, Chargers, for all you do every day to make Dow High GREENER!

Thank you to all of our wonderful 2018-19 volunteers!

We appreciate the time, talents and treasures you shared with MPS students and staff during the 2018-19 school year!

As we look ahead to the 2019-20 school year, here are a few areas where we know we could use some volunteer help:

**Pre-Primary Center at Carpenter Street School:**
- School Parent/Lead Parent
- Lead for Backpack Buddies

**General Volunteers needed:**
- Parking Lot supervision at Drop-off/Pick-up times
- Lunchroom supervision (Elementary/Middle)
- Playground Supervision (Elementary)
- Class Assistance with Students (Elementary)
- Band Assistance with Students (Elementary)

Want more info about volunteering for MPS, go to [www.midlandps.org/volunteer](http://www.midlandps.org/volunteer)
A message from the School Mental Health Workgroup...

Have you heard about the Hope Portal?


myhopeportal.com is a new, comprehensive resource for mental health information, supports, and providers SPECIFIC TO THE MIDLAND AND NORTHEAST MICHIGAN AREA

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Good mental health is an important part of a thriving community.

Hope Portal, powered by 211 Northeast Michigan, is a web-based resource, connecting people to the help they need in just a few clicks.

Hope Portal is:
- A welcoming site for individuals, families, healthcare professionals, educators, businesses and nonprofit organizations who want to connect to mental health care information, resources and providers.
- An online directory and referral resource containing trusted providers who can meet a variety of mental health needs for people of all ages.

Our Resources

The mental health agencies listed on Hope Portal include licensed professionals, profit and nonprofit organizations, help hotlines, support organizations, and hospitals/medical facilities. The list is updated regularly.

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National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-TALK (8255) or chat online with a counselor: [www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org/GetHelp/Lifeline](http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org/GetHelp/Lifeline)

National Alliance on Mental Illness Crisis Text Line: Text START to 741-741

Veterans Crisis Line (for veterans): 1-800-273-8255 (press 2)

National Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-799-SAFE (7233) — Local resource: [Shelterhouse 867-216-6363](http://shelterhouse.org/)

National Sexual Assault Hotline: 1-800-656-HOPE (4673)

Community Mental Health for Central Michigan: (800) 317-0706

Trevor Project for LGBTQ+ Lifeline: 1-866-488-7386

Trans Lifeline: 1-877-565-8860

211

A 211 Call Center can help you find answers and help. 211 uses data from health and human service agencies to match your needs to available resources. Call Center specialists can link or refer you directly to an agency or organization that will help with your specific concern. Dial 2-1-1 from any phone to be connected with a trained professional who knows where to get help. 211 Northeast Michigan specialists are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to residents of 23 counties in Northeast Michigan.

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On May 18, three Boy Scouts from Troop 763, celebrated achieving the rank of Eagle Scout. All three Eagle scouts attend Dow High. Pictured from left: Max Morey, senior; Austin Urlaub, junior; Jacob Telgenhoff, senior. The boys each completed an Eagle Scout project around the community. We send our congratulations to Max, Austin and Jacob for achieving the highest rank possible in the BSA program!
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, Cheer</td>
<td>HH Dow HS</td>
<td>until filled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coach, Assistant, Wrestling</td>
<td>HH Dow HS</td>
<td>until filled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coach, Head, Soccer, JV</td>
<td>HH Dow HS</td>
<td>until filled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HVAC Technician</td>
<td>District-wide</td>
<td>until filled</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mechanic’s Assistant</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>Sign Language Interpreter</td>
<td>District-wide</td>
<td>until filled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher, P.R.O.D.I.G.Y. Program (3 positions)</td>
<td>ADE, PME, WCE</td>
<td>until filled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher, Physical Education/Health</td>
<td>District-wide</td>
<td>5/28/19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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In addition, we are always looking for SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS, PARAPROFESSIONALS & BUS DRIVERS.

Click on this link for information about these opportunities:

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

We included the information for FREE SUMMER MEALS FOR CHILDREN 18 YEARS OF AGE AND YOUNGER in last week’s Communique. If you didn’t get a chance to see it, the letter is posted on our two flyer boards. Here are the links:

**Student Flyers**: Fun 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!

**LOOKING FOR FUN SUMMER ACTIVITIES FOR YOUR CHILD?**

CHECK OUT THE MPS STUDENT FLYER BOARD!

FUN SUMMER STUFF IS COMING IN DAILY (AND WE ARE NOT EXAGGERATING!!!!)

Here is the link:

wise thought to ponder ...

“Aggression unopposed becomes a contagious disease.” — Jimmy Carter

“America did not invent human rights. In a very real sense human rights invented America.” — Jimmy Carter