Did you see this MLive story last week?

"Michigan’s 60 high schools with the highest average SAT score in 2018"

We are proud to “toot our own horn” and let you know that both MPS high schools were on the top 60 SAT list!

Keep in mind that Michigan’s average total SAT score was 1000.1 in 2018 and that there are more than 950 high schools in the State of Michigan, which means that our two high schools scored in the top 5% of students in the entire State of Michigan. Wow!

50. MIDLAND HIGH SCHOOL: Average SAT score: 1110.2. Approximately 58% scored as fully college ready.

Here is the link if you would like to check out the MLive story: [http://s.mlive.com/a7pnJSE](http://s.mlive.com/a7pnJSE)

MPS DIVERSITY & INCLUSION (D & I) AMBASSADORS and INITIATIVE

Midland Public Schools is excited to be starting a new partnership with The Dow Chemical Company to develop a Diversity & Inclusion Strategic Plan. We kicked off this initiative at our opening staff meeting on August 27 with two members of the Dow Chemical executive team sharing their story and the importance of this initiative. At that time, we asked MPS certificated staff members who were interested in serving as their school’s D & I representative to fill out a self-nomination questionnaire. We were so happy with the many qualified, deserving MPS staff members who applied to represent their school on this D & I Team. In late September, the 13 MPS team members selected (listed in the table) will travel to New York City (courtesy of Dow Chemical) to attend WE Day and develop the MPS Diversity & Inclusion Strategic Plan. Stay tuned for updates as the MPS D & I Strategic Plan gets underway!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Representative</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adams Elementary</td>
<td>Kimberli McMahan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Park Elementary</td>
<td>Sarah Cooper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chestnut Hill Elementary</td>
<td>Jennifer Brenes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plymouth Elementary</td>
<td>Kali Lopez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Siebert Elementary</td>
<td>Nicole Fisher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woodcrest Elementary</td>
<td>Sarah Doughty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jefferson Middle School</td>
<td>Karen Staley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northeast Middle School</td>
<td>Kathy Romain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HH Dow High School</td>
<td>Adam Gardner-Northrup</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midland High School</td>
<td>Ben Younkin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ancillary Staff Rep</td>
<td>Jeff Deitrick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative Rep</td>
<td>Penny Miller-Nelson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board of Edu Rep</td>
<td>Pam Singer</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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)

Did you notice this image in the top story? Those who have been part of MPS for the past several years know that we LOVE to “TOOT OUR OWN HORN” about the accomplishments and successes of our students in these Communiques. When you see this symbol in future Communiques, take a peek because we are sharing & celebrating MPS excellence!
**Purpose:** The purpose of the Fun Run is to stimulate interest in cardio-vascular endurance among students and to provide them with distance experience. The Fun Run will also allow students the opportunity to compete and compare their ability with others their age.

**Length:** The Fun Run will be **one mile** run on the cross-country course at **Stratford Woods**.  
All races will begin near the pavilion.

**Date:** **Friday September 21, 2018.** (There is NO rain date)  
The first race will begin at 4:45 p.m. Stratford Woods City Park is located off Ashman near the US 10 Expressway.  
Please allow ample time to park.

**Order of Races:**  
- 4:45 p.m. – 5th grade girls  
- 5:00 p.m. - 5th grade boys  
- 5:15 p.m. - 4th grade girls  
- 5:30 p.m. - 4th grade boys  

*(WE WILL RUN AHEAD OF SCHEDULE WHEN POSSIBLE)*

Come and cheer on these young student athletes!

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**MPS Shining Star Nominations** are now being accepted for the 2018-19 school year for MPS staff members who you feel make MPS a better place for students. Please take a moment to nominate an MPS team member today!  
[https://www.midlandps.org/shining-star-nomination-form](https://www.midlandps.org/shining-star-nomination-form)

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**PROJECT 111**  
is a wonderful community partner organization that promotes safe driving among teen drivers. At the beginning of their junior and senior years, each MPS student signs up to be entered into Project 111. If the student stays traffic ticket free, and in good standing with both school and community, the teen is eligible to receive randomly drawn monthly incentives (including Apple watches, GoPros, gift cards, etc.) At the end of their senior year, a $1,000 scholarship is given at each school. The 2018-19 school year marks the fifth year that our MPS high schools have partnered with Project 111. In addition to MPS, Project 111 is at Coleman and Bullock Creek High Schools. Thank you Project 111 for your hard work as a positive force to help keep our students safe when they are behind the wheel!

Check out their video: [https://youtu.be/anfaxQNocbo](https://youtu.be/anfaxQNocbo)

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**Adams receives a Keep Michigan Beautiful President’s Award**  
Congratulations to Adams Elementary who received word that they are a 2018-19 recipient of the Keep Michigan Beautiful (KMB) President’s Award for their beautiful garden, which is the highest award KMB gives each year! Adams will receive a plaque at an award ceremony in Frankenmuth in October. This year KMB received 28 nominations and we are thrilled that the Adams Garden is one of seven projects chosen to receive the President’s Award.

Congratulations Adams Elementary! Thank you to the students, staff and families who work hard weeding and tending to this beautiful, thriving, producing garden!
Midland Public Schools’ Alumni Spotlight

From time to time, we get news from former MPS students and/or their parents. Last week we received the following letter about two former MPS students and their post-secondary journey and successes.

My name is Maura McDonald – our family lived in Midland until 2015 when we moved to Hudson, OH in the Cleveland area. Our daughter, Erin, graduated from Dow High with an IB diploma in 2014 and our son, Andrew, attended Woodcrest, Jefferson, and 1 year at Dow High. As a proud mom, I just wanted to share some good news about these students and also thank you for the strong foundation Midland Public School set for both of our children.

Erin is starting her 5th year at Michigan State University and competing on the Cross Country and Indoor/Outdoor Track & Field teams. Although she met her graduation requirements in Applied Engineering Sciences last spring semester, she is picking up a minor this year and completing her athletic eligibility with the team. She’ll be running in the Spartan Invite next Friday – she took 2nd place last year and was the 1st Spartan in the race – so she’s gearing up for a good race again this year!

Andrew is starting his freshman year at Michigan State University and is one of 22 recipients of the Alumni Distinguished Scholarship covering full tuition, room and board and a stipend for up to eight semesters of undergraduate study. He’s living in Wilson Hall as part of the College of Engineering “CORe” program and is planning to dual major in Computer Science and Math. Andrew will continue his run at the Junior National Curling championship this year with his team from Wisconsin, South Dakota, and Sam Strouse in Midland. https://msutoday.msu.edu/news/2018/22-students-receive-full-scholarships-to-attend-msu/

Thank you Ms. McDonald for sharing your children’s stories with us. We love hearing about the great things going on for MPS grads and former students and the different paths they are traveling.

The Dow Science and Sustainability Education Center (SSEC) was funded by The Dow Chemical Company Foundation in December 2013 to enhance STEM education at all levels. The Dow SSEC features a unique summer research program that promotes collaboration between high school students, teachers, SVSU students and SVSU faculty mentors. SVSU faculty direct projects in the areas of biochemistry, biology, chemistry, and engineering throughout the Saginaw Bay Watershed. Each project is closely aligned with the Saginaw Bay Environmental Science Institute (SBESI). This summer the paid internship program ran from July 9 - August 16, culminating with the Dow Science and Sustainability Education Center Poster Symposium at SVSU. Joey Lee (MHS) and Anish Middha (DHS) were among the 20 who were chosen to participate from the 90 high school students who applied.

wisdom thought to ponder ...

“To succeed in life, you need three things: a wishbone, a backbone and a funny bone.”
— Reba McEntire