PROJECT LEAD THE WAY (PLTW) IS OFF TO A GREAT START IN MPS HIGH SCHOOLS

As we have been communicating for the past couple of years, the PLTW STEM curriculum has been a major component of the MPS STEM Strategic Plan that we launched in 2016. We have been using PLTW STEM units at the elementary level for a couple of years, however, we are excited to begin using PLTW STEM units this year in our secondary schools.

These photos are from the IED (Intro into Engineering Design) unit of the “Cable Car Instant Challenge” that took place at both high schools. Brainstorming, mock-up and teamwork are being highlighted in these photos!
On June 11, **Northeast Middle School** became one of only five middle schools in the country to earn level three status in the Marzano High Reliability Schools Network. The entire staff has worked very hard improving collaborative practices, instructional methods and prioritizing curriculum to benefit students. Congratulations Northeast!!

**HALF DAY OF SCHOOL**
**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28**

**AM: 1/2 DAY FOR STUDENTS**
**PM: PROF. DEVELOPMENT FOR TEACHERS**
Check with your child’s school for exact release time!

**JOIN US for 2018-19 PIC Meetings!**

**ALL MPS PARENTS ARE WELCOME!**

Our **MPS Parent Information Committee** has been meeting for almost 20 years. This committee is chaired by the MPS Superintendent to share information and keep lines of communication open with our parents.

For the 2018-19 school year, the PIC group will meet the 2ND WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH from October through May from 12:00-1:00 at the MPS Administration Center (600 E. Carpenter).

Parents are welcome to bring their lunch or we will be happy to order a staff lunch from our Chartwells Food Service, which the parent can pay for when they arrive for the PIC meeting.

PIC participants are welcome to come every month or just the months when their schedule allows. Topics for discussion are always timely and student programming centered. If you are interested in being part of the 2018-19 PIC, please complete this very brief form: [https://goo.gl/forms/p8CmJ7Fil8qPfJTv1](https://goo.gl/forms/p8CmJ7Fil8qPfJTv1). Call Cindy at 923-5026 if you have questions.

**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.midianps.org/shining-star-nomination-form](https://www.midianps.org/shining-star-nomination-form)

**Students in Catie Bradfield’s Learning Strategies class at MHS collaborated on a team building/problem solving exercise to build a marshmallow tower.**

Students were split into groups of 3 or 4 and could only use the materials provided (20 spaghetti noodles, 1 marshmallow, 1 yard of string, 1 yard of tape, and scissors) to make the tallest structure that could support a marshmallow on top.

**Looking for College/University/Post-Secondary Information?**

**Midland Area College Night** is being held in Northwood University’s Hach Center
**Tuesday, September 25**
**6:00 – 7:30 PM.**

More than 70 reps will be there to answer questions.
Registration is NOT required.

**HALF DAY OF SCHOOL**
**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28**
Northeast and Jefferson FIRST Tech Challenge Robotics Teams

Kickoff Competition Season with Rover Ruckus!

On Saturday, September 8th, along with FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC) teams worldwide, members of our Northeast and Jefferson middle school robotics teams kicked off this year's competition season with the reveal of this year's challenge, Rover Ruckus.

For the first time in the history of the FIRST organization, the challenges across all program levels are aligned and this year's theme is space exploration which marks the 50th anniversary of man walking on the moon.

In the Rover Ruckus game, robots descend from a lander, collect “minerals” from the crater and sort/store minerals in the cargo hold of the lander. This is all completed during a 30-second autonomous (robot controlled) period and a 2-minute driver controlled operation of the robot.

FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC) robotics teams are given 6-8 weeks to design, build and program robots that compete, with alliance partners, in a head-to-head challenge. They also develop team business plans, which include fundraising and marketing, and they develop game strategies based on their robot design. At the competition, they present all aspects of their team, including the robot they built to judges. They also compete in qualifying matches, earning points for tasks that their alliance is able to complete.

Our FTC teams will compete in two qualifiers, ultimately hoping to earn the opportunity to compete in the Michigan State Championship and ultimately Worlds Festival in Detroit.

The local competition will be held at Bullock Creek High School on November 2nd and 3rd.

Here are our MPS teams:

⇒ Jefferson --- the Technohuskies, CyDogs, Wired Wolves and Coded Pack

⇒ Northeast - FTC Teams 9931 and 12722 (team names are still being fine tuned).

Best wishes to all of our MPS FIRST Tech Challenge Teams! We hope you have a great season!
It's hard to believe we are talking about the holiday season already, however, our wonderful community partners have released information and forms for the 2018 Thanksgiving and Christmas season for those who may need a helping hand. On the MPS Flyer Board, you will find information and forms to fill out for these programs:

⇒ Christmas Assistance Program by The Salvation Army
⇒ Coats for Kids Program by The Salvation Army
⇒ Community Thanksgiving Dinner by The Salvation Army
⇒ Community Christmas Closet by King’s Daughters Home
⇒ Sharing Tree sponsored by United Way of Midland County

Click here for the forms and more information on the above programs: https://sites.google.com/midlandps.org/communityflyers/

MPS School Lunch Program Info

Click on this link for info about the MPS food service program: http://chartwellsk12.compass-usa.com/MidlandPublicSchools

A NEW FREE/REDUCED APPLICATION IS REQUIRED EVERY YEAR.

Free and reduced breakfast and lunch applications can be filled out online at www.lunchapp.com.

A student who does not have a new application on file for 2018-19 will be reset to full pay in October.

On September 9, members of Trinity and St. Timothy’s Lutheran Churches made a huge difference for some Central Park Elementary students! Students were able to come to Central Park and shop for backpacks, gym shoes, school supplies, socks, underwear and jackets. Students also had a chance to get their hair cut and take home combs and hair accessories. This event was organized by retired MPS teacher, Julie Hyatt. Thank you Trinity and St. Timothy Churches and all who donated and volunteered to make this very special event possible for Central Park Explorers!

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED FOR MPS-TV

Did you know that MPS has a television station? Our TV station is possible because of our partnership with MCTV (the City of Midland's public access cable television station). Some of the projects undertaken by our television station include taping and broadcasting the monthly Board of Education meetings, taping special events, taping shows like MPS Today and more.

High school students and adults interested in volunteering with MPS-TV are asked to contact Abby at 923-5104 or youngad@midlandps.org.

“Patience and perseverance have a magical effect before which difficulties disappear and obstacles vanish.”

— John Quincy Adams