Thank you MPS and Midland County Voters

Thank you to everyone who got out and voted last Tuesday!

Congratulations to ...
★ Pam Singer on her reelection to the MPS Board of Education.
  We appreciate Pam’s dedication and serving another four year term

Welcome and Congratulations to ...
★ Jon Lauderbach and Phillip Rausch to the MPS Board of Education. We look forward to getting to know and working with Mr. Lauderbach and Mr. Rausch in the four years to come.

Midland Public Schools thanks all of the Midland County voters who supported the County-wide School Resource Officer (SRO) millage. These funds will continue to provide the SROs at each Midland and H. H. Dow High Schools and will add an additional SRO for each Jefferson Middle School and Northeast Middle School.

Midland Public Schools is so fortunate to be part of a community that supports the educational and well being of our students and staff! Thank you MPS Voters!

Congratulations to the Midland High Chemic football team and coaching staff for their resounding victory Friday evening over Walled Lake Western Warriors. We send our very best wishes with them at State Semifinals on Saturday against Muskegon Mona Shores.
Homecoming 2018 was memorable for both MPS high schools. MHS Homecoming was September 28 and DHS Homecoming was October 5. Below are this year’s Midland Public Schools’ Homecoming Courts! (Photos courtesy of Schaffert Studio, Sanford, Michigan)

Midland High (Left to Right): Jarod Gonder, Ellie Wardell, Timothy HackBarth, Adia Haynes, Nathan Streitmatter, Bailey White, Jacob Miller (King), Irene Cline (Queen), Edie Haase, Isaak Zimmerman, Olivia Carpenter, Jarrett Wagner, Savanna Willis, Mitchell McMath.

H. H. Dow High (Gentlemen Left to Right): Kefir Klee, Sam Hatfield, Nathan Rhee, RJ Roy, Michael Erickson, Nick Sierocki, Collin Erickson, Max Doty, Carter Kohtz; (Ladies Left to Right): Ellyana Tierney, Kayla Dominowski, Ellie Penn, Jenna Hoag, Ally Jaster, Abby Peterson, Jenna Somers, Sophie Reed, Kourtney Fischer

Adams’ Elementary Garden Harvest
Here are some pictures from last week of Emily Holzheuer (2nd Grade) and Maryanne Lipovsky’s (5th Grade) classes at Adams Elementary as they harvested the veges, cleaned out the garden to get it ready for winter and made a delicious veggie soup from the remaining produce harvested from the garden. Yum!

Midland High School Social Studies Teachers enjoyed a visit and guest lecture from a retired US NAVY Seal at their November 6 professional development. Branden Minuth spent six years as a Navy SEAL operating in over 31 countries and numerous bodies of water. Brandon shared one of his many motivational speeches titled “Who Packs your Parachute” as you just never know when you need a reserve in life…and where that might come from.” Brandon shared stories of Navy Life, SEAL Training, Resiliency, Teamwork, Mental Toughness, and overcoming adversity. We are excited to welcome him to meet our students at both High Schools on Veterans Day.

MPS Shining Star nominations are being accepted for MPS staff members who you feel make MPS a better place for students. Click on this link to nominate an MPS team member today: https://www.midlandps.org/shining-star-nomination-form
Collaborative Planning Sessions

In October, elementary grade level and auxiliary teachers were provided with the opportunity to collaborate at the Administration Building. Grade level teams from each school had individual and focused work time with their building PYP/STEM Coordinator.

This time was used for a variety of purposes: alignment of grade level standards; reflecting, revising and rewriting unit planners; planning strategic implementation of PLTW (Project Lead the Way/STEM curriculum); and creating activities that are both inquiry-based and transdisciplinary in nature. Teachers worked to create activities that have real-world application and are meaningful and relevant to students!

The teachers and coordinators were thankful for this gift of uninterrupted work time!!! They creatively reflected on their work and collaboration in a fun way by creating HEADLINES that summed up their session!

Making the PYP Happen

Midland Public Schools was fortunate to be able to host a two and a half day regional IB PYP training entitled Making the PYP Happen. This training is a requirement for all members of International Baccalaureate World Schools offering the Primary Years Programme. Two knowledgeable and experienced IB trainers led new teachers, as well as administrators and PYP/STEM Coordinators in these sessions.

The workshop emphasized the role of teachers as lifelong learners. Best teaching practices, including inquiry and concept-based teaching and learning, were the focus in a collaborative and engaging environment. Teachers were able to develop their personal knowledge and understanding of the elements of the PYP as well as explore their transdisciplinary units of inquiry at each grade level or in each specialist area.

Additionally, the workshop focused on the Learner Profile, which is the heart of the PYP. The Learner Profile is composed of ten attributes that help to develop international-mindedness in all members of the school community. The Learner Profile provides a common language and is used in all PYP schools around the world. Teachers were able to act as inquirers as they engaged with a wide variety of strategies and tools that can be added to their classroom learning experiences and instruction.

At the end of the training, teachers were able to share a meaningful connection between their prior knowledge and their new understandings. Training concluded with teachers creating an action plan for next steps as they continue on their journey with the PYP.

On-Going Professional Development

As new staff was receiving their initial PYP training, veteran staff had the opportunity to learn about exciting enhancements recently released for use in the Primary Years Programme. One area of focus within these enhancements is agency. Student agency gives children voice, choice and ownership in their learning. Staff began exploring ways to develop agency in classrooms and will continue to grow as they offer students more opportunities for agency.
Last week 10th graders in Mrs. Bank’s American Literature class participated in a synchronous learning experience with Ms. Groulx’s 6th grade Writing class at Northeast Middle School. The two classes are teamed up in a Chrome Pals Exchange in which classes skype monthly to collaborate in an interactive virtual classroom. Topics are related to common curriculum and subject area themes. Students in both classes are paired and will utilize their Chrome Books to communicate and well as collaborate. On the kickoff, students met a mystery skype and had an opportunity to meet Mr. Dave Dziedzic, the district technology director of Midland Public Schools. We are excited to watch this program develop!

Thanks to Melissa Toner, the MPS instructional technology and media curriculum specialist for helping us to organize and orchestrate our Chrome Pals Program.

On November 8 a ceremony was held for the Great Lakes Bay Beauty: Pure Nature photography contest. This was a calendar contest sponsored by Hemlock Semiconductor Operations. Midland High School had three contest winners and many honorable mentions. Jadyn Cole was the grand prize winner while Allie Mayville and Evan White were individual winners. Nicolette Brown, Alyssa Chritz, Kara Cotton, Ryan Hampton, Ella Jaster, Drew Johnson, Eva May, Christina Owens, Makenna Town, and Lora Waskevich were all finalists in the competition. Congratulations to all!

On November 3, Students from Midland High School competed in and won the Novice Division of the 5th annual High School Computer Programming Competition sponsored by the Computer Science Department at Michigan State University. Members of the winning team were Hannah Jozwiak and Aiden Wilber-Gauthier. Also competing from Midland High School were Makayla Nehrt, Brylee Pavlik, Tejaswini Srinivas Reddy, Morgan Hallberg, Katherine Perry, Olivia Johnson, Edie Haase, Ashley Siegmund, and Caryn Wenban. Great job MHS!

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Is tomorrow …
Tuesday, November 13.
Let’s be kind to one another!
Last week Jefferson Middle School students harvested 8 future space plants. The plants were selected by NASA as part of their Growing Beyond Earth project. Students learned science while helping NASA to meet challenges with growing plants in the International Space Station and future missions to Mars.

The project was proposed to the school by the TechnoHuskies. As a FIRST robotics Tech Challenge team, the TechnoHuskies (FTC Team #10309) aim to advance science, mathematics, and technology. The project was proposed to introduce more students to the wonders of STEM by helping NASA. Among 157 schools in the nation taking part, Jefferson Middle School is the first school in Michigan to participate. The TechnoHuskies and Jefferson Science Olympiad club members worked together to apply and learn STEM skills as they follow NASA research protocols. They assembled a grow box, planted space-exposed seeds, and sent weekly research reports to NASA.

For 28 days, they took turns daily to care for the seedlings and record their growth. They also publicized their work on social media: twitter.com/ftc10309. Plus they interacted with Dr. Massa, NASA Veggie Project Lead, and Trent Smith, NASA veggie project manager in two live webinars.

The harvesting event coincided with National STEM day. The total fresh edible mass produced: 273.1 g. After harvesting and weighing, students, teachers, parents, and siblings were invited to have a bite. The space plants were quite tasty.

Community Outreach - Midland Public Schools FIRST Robotics Teams

The Dow High Robotics Team 2619, The Charge, the Midland High Robotics Team 5509, ‘Like A Boss’, and the Jefferson Robotics Team 10615, CyDogs, were involved in the Nexteer FIRST Robotics Night at the Saginaw Spirit hockey game in early November. The event included robot demonstrations with other local FIRST Robotics teams, activities for kids before the game, and local team mentors participating in the ceremonial puck drop.
The Dow High Girls Swim & Dive Team won their 13th Valley Championship in a row. It was a true team effort that the girls all worked hard toward achieving all season. Valley Champions include the 200 Medley Relay with a new meet record swim by Sasha Konovalenko, Chelsea Fenton, Anna Jensen and Claire Newman. Sasha Konovalenko won the 200 IM (third year in a row), Claire Newman won the 50 Free (2 years in a row) and the 100 Free (3 years in a row) setting new meet records in both, Chelsea Fenton won the 500 Free (second year in a row) and the 400 Free Relay also took first swim by Jensen, Konovalenko, Newman and Fenton. The State Meet will be at Oakland University in mid-November.

Students in Mr. Wegener and Mrs. Dammann's Algebra 1 class at Midland High explored the relationship between distance and time as an introductory lesson to graphing, the measures of central tendency, and the relationship between distance and time. Students built mangonel catapults out of tongue depressors, golf pencils, and rubber bands, then ran ten trials of pumpkin launches where students launched candy pumpkins. Students collected data, graphed their results, and made comparisons between class data and group data. They discussed ways they could improve results and rebuild their catapult to launch the pumpkin further.

Four MHS Social Studies Educators (Ryan Wontorcik, Henry Muller, Josh Criner, and Connie Beson-Steger) attended an evening conference at the Flint ISD on teaching the Holocaust and Genocide hosted by the Dearborn Holocaust Memorial Center. This interactive and collaborative session focused on the State requirement for Holocaust and genocide instruction. The conference introduced and navigated teachers through the Echoes and Reflections, a comprehensive collection of both digital and print materials and resources to use in teaching high school students about the Holocaust and genocide in a comprehensive and personal fashion. For more information, please visit the web page: https://echoesandreflections.org/

Carter Hazen and Brett Waskevic, MHS student BTIL's (Building Technology Instructional Leaders), presented to Chemic staff at the professional development day on November 6th. They prepared a short presentation to share what they are doing to improve technology usage at Midland High. Carter and Brett taught staff how to use Draft Back, a google extension that allows teachers to analyze student writings and help them with writing tips for future essays. This extension is also a way to check who is working specifically on certain parts of assignments. Carter and Brett are available to help students and teachers with their technology needs during 6th and 7th periods.

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