As you may remember, in 2015 MPS began implementation of an extensive STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) Strategic Plan. Great STEM experiences are happening for MPS students across curricular lines each and every day. Here is one great example: In Midland High World History, students are learning about the Industrial Revolution and the new developments that came about during this time period. Just as the British Parliament challenged the Royal Society to construct a new iron bridge over the River Thames, so did Ms. Beson-Steger challenge her students to design and build a weight-bearing bridge from spaghetti and marshmallows. The project combined mathematical logic, the scientific process, as well as hands-on manipulations of iron (spaghetti) beams. All students were fully engaged in the construction and development phases and then enjoyed testing out weight-bearing experiments with cell phones being their favorite measure of weight.

The top civil engineering team (Abram Hadad, Lincoln Klinski, Collin Seritos, Andrew Steger) built a weave pattern of spaghetti that was able to withstand 17 textbooks and a novel to top it off!

Congratulations to Ava Nelson, HH Dow High Sophomore, Named Great Lakes Bay Region Girls Living STEM Honoree. The Girls Living STEM honors girls who participate in STEM programs, have a passion for STEM and encourage others to further engage.

Ava’s work as a Chief Science Officer (CSO) through STEM @ SVSU is incredibly impressive. She designed and implemented a community Flight Night at a local airport. A collaboration between local elementary schools, their students and parents and the Airport Aviation Education Center, meant that over 300 students and community members were impacted during this single event. In addition to watching light planes take off and land, students and their parents could climb into a permanent airport display, learn about the atmosphere, discover constellations and interact with medical evacuation personnel. Encouraging younger students to learn about aviation in a practical and hands-on setting was Ava’s goal in implementing the Flight Night experience.

In three Flight Night events, Ava has impacted well over 1,000 individuals in her community.

In addition to her tremendous success at organizing and implementing such a large event, Ava also gives back to the Chief Science Officers program, is a member of the CSO Leadership Council and assisted with the coordination of the CSO Leadership Training Institute this summer. She also attends meetings at local STEM businesses and is a member of the Great Lakes Bay Region STEM Steering Team. Ava’s ability to network, collaborate with stakeholders from a wide variety of sectors and implement such a large scale event led to her receiving the Girls in STEM award for the region. Ava was honored at the Great Lakes Bay Regional Alliance Board meeting in December to thank her for her contributions to STEM in the region.

Have a wonderful holiday break! See you in 2020. Watch for the next Communique to come your way January 6.
MPS is gearing up for PRESCHOOL & KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION for the 2020-21 school year!

- KINDERGARTEN Orientation at all MPS elementary schools is Tuesday, February 4, at 5:45 pm.
- 4-YEAR OLD PRESCHOOL Open House (Both IB-PYP & Great Start Readiness Program) at Carpenter Street School is Monday, March 9 at 5:30 pm
- IB PYP PRESCHOOL Registration opens on February 1.
- GSRP 4-Year-Old Preschool Registration window will be announced by the State of Michigan this winter.

Congratulations to the HH Dow High Debate Team who competed at the highly competitive MSU national debate tournament recently. The team of Tayce Shamamian and Rehan Manjila broke to semi-finals. Tayce earned 9th Varsity speaker overall. On the novice level, Anthony Tang placed 8th speaker overall and Corrine Cai placed 1st speaker overall. Kudos, Charger Debaters!

In last week’s Communique, we recognized the Dow High Pom members who participated in the 2019 America’s Parade in Detroit on Thanksgiving Day. We were informed this past week that Midland High also had a Varsity Pom team member who participated in the 2019 America’s Parade.

Kudos to Chemic Senior, Taylor O’Hare, who also participated in the 2019 America’s Parade in Detroit with the 208 member Mid-American Pompon All-Star team. This was the second year Taylor represented MHS in the parade. Congratulations, Taylor!

Thank you to all five MPS Varsity Pom members who represented MPS so admirably in Detroit this Thanksgiving!

Photo courtesy of Midland Daily News

Lynn Heil, a Spanish teacher at Jefferson Middle School, was selected to speak at ACTFL, the world language national conference in Washington, D.C. with attendees from all over the world. Ms. Heil gave a presentation about how K-12 teachers can successfully apply for classroom grants. In the past, Lynn has won grants to support several field trips (like a trip to the Detroit Institute of Arts) for the 7th and 8th grade Spanish students at Jefferson. Along with several other MPS World Language Teachers, Mrs. Heil has presented this year at the state, regional and national conferences and will present again at the regional conference in March. She is grateful for the support she received from Jefferson and the District as well as that of JPAC, the Jefferson parent organization.

Did you know the Grace A. Dow Memorial Library, through the Michigan Electronic Library (https://www.mel.org/az.php), offers 24/7 remote access to LearningExpress Library, an interactive online resource designed to help students succeed? LearningExpress Library includes hundreds of practice exams and remedial courses for 4th graders through high school students in the areas of math, reading and writing skills improvement. The resource also includes practice exams and courses for the ACT, SAT, and AP tests. This resource is free to all Michigan residents, but you must create a login to download any materials.
Join our Team

**MPS Current Job Openings**

Click on this link for current job postings:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Posting End Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Coach, Assistant, Soccer, Girls’</td>
<td>Midland HS</td>
<td>until filled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coach, Head, Tennis</td>
<td>Midland HS</td>
<td>until filled</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coach, Assistant, Track</td>
<td>HH Dow HS</td>
<td>until filled</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coach, Head, Volleyball</td>
<td>Midland HS</td>
<td>until filled</td>
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<td>Coach, Head, Pom Pon</td>
<td>HH Dow HS</td>
<td>12/24/2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coach, JV, Boys’ Soccer</td>
<td>HH Dow HS</td>
<td>until filled</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paraprofessional (two positions)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paraprofessional</td>
<td>Jefferson MS</td>
<td>12/24/2019</td>
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<td>Student Support Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teacher, Elementary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teacher, Special Education</td>
<td>Northeast MS</td>
<td>until filled</td>
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**2020-21 INCOMING 9TH GRADE ORIENTATION**

Mark your calendar for these 9th Grade Orientation Dates

**HH Dow High School** — Monday, January 20, 2020
(6:00 — Parents/guardians report to cafeteria; students report to main gym)

**Midland High School** — Tuesday, January 21, 2020
(5:45 — International Baccalaureate Program Info)
(6:15 — Parent Program begins in Cafeteria)

**MPS NEEDS SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS!**

Midland Public Schools contracts through EDUStaff for our substitute teachers. You choose the days, grade levels, schools at which you would like to sub!
For more information go to [www.edustaff.org](http://www.edustaff.org) TODAY

Nominate a great MPS team member for a SHINING STAR today!
MPS Team Shining Star Nominations are now being accepted for the 2019-20 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)

Have you checked out the MPS Student or Community Flyer Boards under the Community tab on the MPS website lately?
**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)

**wises thought to ponder …**

“I believe in the spirit of equality and the spirit of this country as one of love and compassion and kindness.”

— Lady Gaga.