MPS showing kindness during the holidays!

The Woodcrest Elementary students in Mary Wynne’s classroom chose to have a blanket making party as opposed to a traditional holiday party. All of the blankets that were made were donated to Mid-Michigan Medical Center. Way to go, Woodcrest Wolverines!

Siebert Student Leadership collected socks for community students and families in need.

Woodcrest Safety Patrol did a toy collection drive to help out the Salvation Army.

A group of Siebert students caroled around neighborhoods and at a nursing home spreading holiday cheer!

Dow High DECA ran their annual Toys for Tots drive this holiday season and collected more than 150 toys. Each year the club strives to give back to the Midland community by hosting a toy drive competition. This year Mrs. Williams’ class defended their title as the reigning champs by donating the most toys to the drive.

Cool Example of Inclusion at MPS

Dow v. Midland Unified Basketball Game

On Thursday, December 19, after the Varsity girls’ cross-town rivalry basketball game between Dow & Midland High and before the Varsity boys’ game, a very special event took place—the first ever Dow v. Midland Unified Basketball Interscholastic Game. At this game, three special education students and two general education partner players took the court with the same rules as high school basketball play. This was an exciting evening for the players on the court with the stands filled with hundreds of students and adults cheering both teams on. The students wore their jerseys to school on that Thursday being a proud member of THEIR SCHOOLS’ team! The Dow v. Midland Unified Basketball Teams will have a rematch on Friday, January 31, at HH Dow High. The Dow High Unified Team is coached by Lee Meitler and the Midland High team is coached by Dave Jenkins.

The Unified Basketball Teams are a partnership between Special Olympics Michigan and the MHSAA. Thanks to Midland High Athletic Director, Eric Albright, for bringing this idea to the Saginaw Valley schools and to Midland Public Schools!
Midland Public Schools had 22 female high school students and four MPS staff members who were invited and participated in the December 16 POWER Up session sponsored by the Midland Executive Inclusion Council. Here is the event description the participants received:

**POWER Up** is a confidence-building leadership skill development experience for females that instills these key concepts:

- **P**roject confidence authentically
- **O**wn your career
- **W**iden your network
- **E**levate your communication
- **R**ealize your purpose

Participants had the opportunity to interact with female leaders from the local community and business sector and gain skills to support their future success. The sessions were interactive; organizers asked the students to come with an open mind, an inquisitive spirit, and a willingness to fully engage in the learning and have fun!

MPS Associate Superintendent, Penny Miller-Nelson, was one of the POWER Up presenters. The topic of her presentation, “Realize your Purpose.”

---

MPS is gearing up for PRESCHOOL & KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION for 2020-21!

- **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, 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.

**Speaking of our GSRP 4-Year-Old Preschool …** Midland PS has just been awarded two additional GSRP seats effective IMMEDIATELY. Go to [www.michiganpreschool.org](http://www.michiganpreschool.org) for information and/or to apply!

---

MPS FIRST LEGO LEAGUE (FLL) AND FIRST TECH CHALLENGE (FTC) ROBOTICS’ STUDENTS PRESENTED AT DECEMBER 16 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

At the December 16 Board of Education meeting, Grade 4-5 elementary students involved in the 2019 FLL competitive season and Grade 6-8 middle school students involved in the 2019 FTC competitive season spoke about the FIRST programs’ core values, project, robot game and experiences. Following their presentation, the elementary students showed Board members the robots they created. Following the middle school students’ presentation, the Northeast FTC Team 9931—Viking Vendors—demonstrated their impressive robot in action.

We were excited to learn that in the 2019-20 school year, Midland Public Schools has 26 teams in the Grade 1-3 Jr. FIRST LEGO League program; nine teams in the Grade 4-5 FIRST LEGO League program; five Grade 6-8 teams in the FIRST Tech Challenge; and two high school teams in the Grade 9-12 FIRST Robotics Competition.

A big thank you to Sudie Ammerman, Midland Public Schools’ Volunteer Robotics Coordinator for the FLL and FTC programs, who coordinated this presentation and does such a wonderful job overseeing the elementary and middle school FIRST robotics programs for MPS.
On December 17, one hundred HH Dow High DECA Members participated in the District 1 DECA Competition held at SVSU. 86 members earned medals and 79 qualified for the State Competition to be held in Detroit in March of 2020. In total, Dow High brought home an impressive 193 medals.

☆ Earning the highest test score for Dow High: Salma Elsadany.
☆ Earning the highest role play score: Haily Tanis (with a perfect score).
☆ Earning the highest total combined score was the team of Adam Haydanek and Aiden Murphy.

This Charger DECA team Advisor is DHS Business Teacher, Erin Royalty.

Congratulations to these Midland High Seniors, Corbin Dittenber, Timmy Kipfmiller, Erika Leasher, Andrew Scheffer, whose phone app, “Meal Deals” won the 2019 Congressional App Challenge for the Fourth District. This exciting news was announced by United States Representative, John Moolenaar, on December 20. This helpful app was designed to assist families who are struggling financially purchase the fixings for affordable, nutritious meals. These Chemics will be invited to Washington, D.C. in early 2020 to take part in a reception with the other App Challenge winners from across the country. These impressive app developers are advised by Midland High teacher, Bob Fox. Congratulations, Corbin, Timmy, Erica and Andrew! We are proud of you!

Congratulations to Lynn Ver dusco, Woodcrest Elementary Teacher, and Andrea Jozwiak, Midland High Business Education Teacher, who have been selected to receive the Heroes in Education Award by Saginaw Valley State University at a ceremony to be held in March. In the message they received about their receipt of the award, the SVSU College of Education wrote, “We are delighted to be able to recognize the outstanding work you are doing to inspire, impact, innovate, and be involved as an educator.”

Congratulations, Lynn & Andrea! We are proud of you!

Congratulations to Lynn Ver dusco, Woodcrest Elementary Teacher, and Andrea Jozwiak, Midland High Business Education Teacher, who have been selected to receive the Heroes in Education Award by Saginaw Valley State University at a ceremony to be held in March. In the message they received about their receipt of the award, the SVSU College of Education wrote, “We are delighted to be able to recognize the outstanding work you are doing to inspire, impact, innovate, and be involved as an educator.”

Congratulations, Lynn & Andrea! We are proud of you!

Congratulations to the Midland High Business Professionals of America (BPA) members that participated in the December BPA Regional Competition. Their professionalism and performance was superior. Best wishes to the 49 students who will be representing MHS/MPS at State Competition. This Chemic BPA team Advisor is MHS Business Teacher, Andrea Jozwiak.

On December 17, one hundred HH Dow High DECA Members participated in the District 1 DECA Competition held at SVSU. 86 members earned medals and 79 qualified for the State Competition to be held in Detroit in March of 2020.

In total, Dow High brought home an impressive 193 medals.

☆ Earning the highest test score for Dow High: Salma Elsadany.
☆ Earning the highest role play score: Haily Tanis (with a perfect score).
☆ Earning the highest total combined score was the team of Adam Haydanek and Aiden Murphy.

This Charger DECA team Advisor is DHS Business Teacher, Erin Royalty.

Midland Public Schools wishes you and your family a 2020 filled with peace, joy, good health and many, many smile-filled memories!
Middle School Robotics Teams Represent Midland at State Championship

All five of our MPS FIRST Tech Challenge teams (Northeast teams 9931 Viking Vendors and 12722 The Viking Force, Jefferson teams 10309 TechnoHuskies, 10615 CyDogs and 12603 Wired Wolves) were invited to compete at the Michigan FTC State Championship in Battle Creek in mid-December. They were joined by 66 other top FTC teams in Michigan. The 72 teams were split into 36 per field (Edison and Franklin Divisions). Over the course of two days they played qualification matches and were interviewed by judges, before the final teams met in the playoffs and the awards were given out.

Northeast’s The Viking Force was very excited to compete in their first FTC State Championship and were joined by Northeast Viking Vendors and the Jefferson CyDogs in the Franklin Division. The two Northeast teams had similar experiences and ended qualification play in back-to-back positions, with both teams making it into the playoffs. As Captains, The Viking Force were able to select more Midland friends and the Jefferson CyDogs joined their alliance. The combo alliance advanced to the Division Finals, but were defeated by the eventual overall state champions. The Jefferson CyDogs were Finalists for both the Connect Award, which celebrates a team that is highly engaged with the engineering community, and the Promote Award for their video submission on how being in FIRST has impacted the students on the team.

The Jefferson Wired Wolves faced tough competition throughout, coming up against multiple teams who ended up in the playoffs for the Edison Division. They took it in stride, worked hard and never gave up. They couldn’t be more pleased with everything they learned this season, and they did it all while still having fun! Also playing in the Edison Division were the Jefferson TechnoHuskies. As playoff Alliance Captains, they selected 4-Gear Clovers, a Rookie Team from Brighton, MI, and Techno Trojans II from Fruitport, MI as their alliance partners. Based on robot capacities and game strategies, their alliance selection helped them become the Champion Alliance of the Edison Division. Even though they lost to the Franklin Division Champions during the Championship Finals, they were more than happy to celebrate what they have achieved at the State Championships. The Jefferson TechnoHuskies received the Finalist Award and Inspire Award. The Inspire Award celebrates a team with the strongest qualities in all judged awards, including removal of engineering obstacles through creative thinking, innovative robot design, reliable robot control, community engagement, gracious professionalism, team spirit, and teamwork!

The Jefferson TechnoHuskies are honored to be invited to compete at the FIRST World Championship in Detroit April 28 to May 2, 2020.

It is no surprise that we have such talented and innovative students in Midland, but having all five of our middle school teams together at the State Finals is quite an accomplishment! Congratulations to the Midland Public Schools’ FIRST Tech Challenge Robotics teams!

FIRST Robotics Competition 2020 Season Kicks Off for High School Teams!

The 2020 FIRST Robotics Competition Season for our Midland High and Dow High School teams is underway!

The Dow High team, FRC 2619 - The Charge and the Midland High Team, FRC 5509 - Like a Boss watched the game reveal in the Midland Public Schools’ Robotics Center. This year’s challenge is called INFINITE RECHARGE™ and is in alignment with the ‘FIRST RISE’ Star Wars theme for all FIRST programs. Teams will have 8 weeks to design, build, and program a 125-pound robot where two competing robot alliances will collect & score power cells in order to energize their shield generator during 2.5-minute matches. To activate stages of the shield generator & win the match, robots will interact with a control panel & climb to the rendezvous point after scoring a sufficient number of power cells.

Save the Date: The 2020 FIRST Midland District Competition will be held at H. H. Dow High School on March 19-21.
As you know, MPS has been embracing a spirit of Inclusion & Diversity this year in many different ways across District lines. Here is one great example … The week before holiday break, as a way to promote the goal of inclusion, the HH Dow High Student Council included in each day’s announcements, information about these different holidays from around the world:

- Las Posadas is a Christian religious festival celebrated between December 16th and 24th. During this celebration in Mexico, each night a child dressed as an angel leads a procession through the town.
- Hanukkah is a Jewish religious holiday. It’s an 8-day celebration, (this year December 22-30), often celebrated by lighting the menorah, spinning dreidels and enjoying delicious food!
- Kwanzaa, which started in the United States in the 1960s. It is a 7-day holiday which celebrates African culture, family and the giving of educational and homemade gifts! It shares a candle lighting tradition with Hanukkah and Christmas.
- Christmas is a Christian religious and cultural holiday on December 25th. People often celebrate by decorating a Christmas tree, giving gifts and listening to various Christmas songs.

Here is another great example of MPS students showing kindness in our community! For the 6th consecutive year, the MHS Chemic Varsity Hockey Team purchased and donated adorable, fuzzy stuffed animals for children who are patients at Midland's MidMichigan Medical Center. Way to go, Chemics!

The Siebert Culture Club recently hosted an Open House featuring the culture of the different countries in Europe. Students worked over the past month to research and put together posters to educate others. The hard work paid off when students from other schools and members of the community came together to enjoy a taste of traditional food and learn about each country’s unique culture.

Don’t miss H.H. Dow High’s 2020 RenFair!
January 24 at 7:00 pm at Midland Center for the Arts

Ticket prices are $15 for adults and $10 for students and are on sale now at the MCFTA ticket office or online at https://www.mcfta.org/event/h-h-dow-high-school/e27743/. (All proceeds support the Dow High music programs.)

Get your tickets now before they sell out and watch our very talented HH Dow High Chargers Shine!

Congratulations to the H. H. Dow High Debate Team who competed at States this past weekend. The team of Tayce Shamamian and Faith Tabler won the varsity tournament earning Dow High the Varsity State Championship for the first time in DHS history. On the novice level, the team of Corrine Cai and Anthony Tang broke to the final round and placed 2nd overall in the Novice State Championship. Faith was recognized as 5th speaker in the Varsity division and Corrine earned 1st place in the novice division. This Charger Debate Team is Advised by DHS Teacher, Amy Bushey.

Congratulations to the entire team on an outstanding season and State finish.

WELCOME BACK!!

We hope you had a nice holiday break, but now it is time to get back to work. 1st Semester ends January 23!
Join our Team

MPS Current Job Openings

Click on this link for current job postings:

<table>
<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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coach, Assistant Track</td>
<td>HH Dow HS</td>
<td>until filled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coach, Head, Volleyball</td>
<td>Midland HS</td>
<td>until filled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coach, JV Soccer, Boys'</td>
<td>HH Dow HS</td>
<td>until filled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paraprofessional (two positions)</td>
<td>Central Park ES</td>
<td>01/06/2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paraprofessional (two positions)</td>
<td>Chestnut Hill ES</td>
<td>until filled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paraprofessional</td>
<td>Adams ES</td>
<td>01/06/2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Support Services</td>
<td>District</td>
<td>until filled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher, Elementary</td>
<td>District</td>
<td>until filled</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 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

MPS NEEDS SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS!

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/
Community Flyers: https://sites.google.com/midlandps.org/communityflyers

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.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

MPS Board of Education Members:
- Pam Singer, President
- Scott McFarland, Vice President
- Lynn Baker, Secretary
- Mary Fredell, Treasurer
- Brad Blasy, Trustee
- Jon Lauderbach, Trustee
- Phil Rausch, Trustee

wise thought to ponder …

“And now we welcome the new year. Full of things that have never been.”
— Rainer Maria Rilke