It’s that time of year again in Midland, MICHIGAN … Winter Wonderland Time … And, of course, the possibility of inclement weather days!

During the winter months, conditions may make it necessary to close schools. Midland Public Schools’ goal is NOT to close schools unless weather and road conditions are such that the possible hazards to the children’s safety outweigh the educational value of school. First and foremost, the safety and wellbeing of our students is our primary concern!

In determining whether to close schools for inclement weather, Midland Public Schools has a team that drives the roads within the District boundaries very, very early in the morning. In addition, we consult City and County emergency management, road officials, district school superintendents within Midland County and others depending on the conditions that present themselves during each individual weather or emergency situation.

Here are just a few conditions and issues that we take into careful consideration as the decisions are made:

- The amount of snowfall we have received or is predicted; the timing of the storm; the ability of road crews/District personnel to clear roads, parking lots, sidewalks; the ability to safely transport students to school and more.
- Dangerously cold temps combined with strong winds and wind chill temperatures. MPS does not have a set policy on when we close due to wind chill, but –20 or below generally will force a school closing.
- Building problems caused by weather conditions such as loss of heat, power, water service, etc.

When school is in session, our school buildings and transportation fleet are warm and safe. Driving children to school may be an option for some parents, especially for those parents of high school students who do not have a lot of winter driving experience yet. Parents are asked to stay on top of weather conditions and the winter weather gear their child(ren) will need for getting to and from school, at recess, etc..

We also ask that parents have a plan should a school cancellation be necessary. Please know we realize that decisions on wintery weather mornings that cancels school may put a hardship on families for appropriate and safe supervision of their children.

Student safety whether school is open or closed will require all of us communicating and working together! Our goal is to make the best decision we can for MPS students, staff and families; however, we know the decision we make is not always popular and everyone will not agree.

I guess what I would like to leave you with is MPS is located in Midland, MICHIGAN! We know that winter is a fact of life for us. We cannot close school whenever we have an inch or two of snow; however, parents have to use their best judgement when it comes to the safety of their own child(ren).

On the mornings you are wondering whether school is in session at Midland Public Schools, we will communicate via:

- text message to parent cell phone**
- email
- www.midlandps.org
- MPS-TV (Charter—190; Uverse—99)
- 923-SNOW
- Twitter: @MichaelSharrow2 or @MidlandPS
- local TV/radio stations

** Please reference the School Messenger Tips document for text message opt-in instructions.
MPS FIRST Lego League Teams Compete in the Ready, Set, Lego Competition

This past weekend, our six Midland Public Schools’ FIRST Lego League teams attended their Into Orbit Season Competition. The event, organized and staffed by employees of Nexteer Corporation, is the culmination of each of the team’s hard work and innovation for the season.

This year’s theme is called Into Orbit and teams are challenged to build and program a Lego Mindstorms robot that performs “missions.” In addition, teams identify, research and innovate a solution to real-life social or physical problems that humans face during space exploration.

The Adams Space Squirtels enjoyed the Space Travel mission because they all participated in programming and building and their robot finished in 3rd place. They enjoyed presenting their Reducing CO2 Levels on the Space Station Using Trees project. The team won the Championship Award and qualified for the Michigan State Championship in mid-December in Bloomfield Hills.

The Siebert Binary Bulldogs enjoyed playing the robot missions and presenting their B.E.N.1 (Bulldog Exercise Nvention) project to the judges. They were the #1 team in robot performance with a high score of 204 points. The Binary Bulldogs were the recipient of the Strategy and Innovation Award and the Robot Performance Award and also qualified for the Michigan State Championship.

The Siebert Bulldog Builders enjoyed showing off their teamwork in Core Values Judging, as well as presenting to judges their solution for having nutritious food to eat on long-term space voyages. They conceptualized an innovative AERO-X aeroponics system for growing fresh veggies in space. They were the recipient of the Mechanical Design Award and qualified for the Michigan State Championship.

The Woodcrest Space Savers team had a great time at the event. After some adjustments, their robot performed very well, finishing in 6th place. They enjoyed presenting their 5SVR (5 Senses Virtual Reality) concept to the judges. The Space Savers team earned the Gracious Professionalism award and also qualified for the Michigan State Championship.

Our two rookie teams, the Woodcrest Cyclone Wolverines and Adams Lego Explosion also had a great performance and they enjoyed seeing their robot perform its missions and they enjoyed presenting their space-related projects to the judges. They are already looking forward to next year’s season and event so that they can apply what they learned.

Congratulations to all of the Midland Public Schools FIRST Lego League teams! These teams of 4th and 5th grade students all had a fantastic performance at the competition!

Congratulations and best of luck to the four MPS teams who advanced to the Michigan State Championship - Adams Space Squirtels, Woodcrest Space Savers and from Siebert the Binary Bulldogs and Bulldog Builders.

The Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition (MMPC) is an annual high school mathematics competition held in Michigan. This competition consists of two parts, which are added together to determine the final score. Part I of the MMPC is open to all students in Michigan high schools. From over 6,000 participants in Part I, the top 1,000 students are invited to take Part II of the MMPC. The top 100 scorers on the combined score of both parts of the competition are honored at an awards banquet where approximately $20,000 in scholarships ranging from $250 to $2,500 will be awarded this year. Congratulations and best wishes to these 31 Dow High Chargers who qualified to take Part 2 of the Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition in early December: Sean Anderson, Eastin Block, Gage Bunker, Kevin Cheng, Jashvi Desai, Collin Erickson, Jason Fagan, Andrew Gilbert, Scott Gilbert, Naisha Hasan, Haley Hills, Irshad Husain, Adhira Hyder, Neil Janwani, Nathaniel Kalantar, Sasha Konovalenko, Allison Leslie, David Lin, Samantha Ludwick, Anish Middha, Jo Mingi, Shubhan Nagarkar, Stephen Odonnell, Tolu Oshin, Annabelle Park, Caleb Qiu, Ashwin Saxena, Shiva Sreeram, Nathan Witt, Abigail Yoo, Andrew Zhou.
NEW GYM, STAGE & CAFE AT SIEBERT AND CHESTNUT HILL
Thank you MPS Voters!

For anyone who has traveled near Siebert and Chestnut Hill Elementary Schools during the past year, you know the bond funds have been hard at work renovating, updating, building additions, and lots more at these elementary buildings. The brand new gymnasium and lunch room additions passed all final state inspections at both schools with final clean up and furniture set up finished a week or so ago. Here are some photos of these new areas “in action” this past week. Thank you MPS Voters for passing the 2.95 mills bond in February 2015!

MPS had two students named Scholar Athletes of the Month by ESPN 100.9 FM

Midland High Senior, Jeff Landis, with a 4.46 GPA. You may have read in the November 19 Communique that Jeff will be attending Hillsdale College next year and will be a member of the Hillsdale baseball team.

H. H. Dow High Junior, Tyler Lyman. Here is what was said in the ESPN 100.9 announcement: "Lyman, a junior, starred on Dow’s soccer team this year as the leading point scorer (18 goals, 9 assists). He’s also a member of the Chargers basketball team. While juggling his athletic responsibilities, Lyman has been able to maintain a 4.0 GPA.”

Congratulations to these MPS Scholar Athletes!

Northeast Middle School FTC Teams Compete in Second Qualifier

Both the Viking Vendors and the Zen Vikings robotics teams recently competed in their second qualifier in Iron Mountain/Kingsford in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula. Both teams did very well and the Viking Vendors earned first place at the end of the qualification rounds, while Zen Vikings finished 6th. As Captain of Alliance 1, the Viking Vendors invited their sister team to their alliance for playoffs. The alliance made it to finals and the alliance ultimately ended up as finalists. The Zen Vikings won the Design award, which is presented to the team that best incorporates industrial design into the robot solution. The Viking Vendors won the Connect Award and was runner-up for the Inspire Award. The Connect Award is given to the team that connects with their local STEM community. The Viking Vendors qualified to attend the FIRST Tech Challenge State Competition in Battle Creek Michigan.

Congratulations to both of Northeast Middle School robotics teams!
Thank you to the Administrative Professionals in the Dow Chemical Research & Development Department for their recent donation of school supplies, winter weather gear, tissues and more.

Every year during the holidays, this group of dedicated administrative professionals chooses a different ingathering and this year they chose to donate school supplies to local teachers at Midland Public Schools. We divided their very generous donations among four MPS buildings. Thank you Dow Chemical Admin. Professionals!

Roses to the Midland High Chemics involved in Saturday’s Rhapsody Rendezvous at Midland Center for the Arts. Kudos to the very talented performers and emcees that made the afternoon and evening so memorable for everyone who attended!

Woodcrest Elementary 5th Grade students from Mrs. French and Ms. Olinger’s classes recently worked together in small groups to engage with robotics as a means of understanding how sensors use both inputs and outputs. Students worked collaboratively to create test beds to apply their knowledge to real-world situations. The new Woodcrest maker space was abuzz with excitement while students worked together on this project.

Please keep the nominations coming in for MPS staff members you believe are Shining Stars!

Link to Shining Star nomination form: https://www.midlandps.org/shining-star-nomination-form

Midland Daily News Included the ⇒ 2018 Football Dream Team ⇒ 2018 Fall Sports Dream Team in last week’s newspapers. Below are the links if you’d like to check them out.


Congratulations to all of the MPS student athletes who participated in 2018 fall sports and kudos to those who were named members of the 2018 Dream Teams by Midland Daily News.

Please note: the beautiful room the students are working in is their new maker space that was completed just this year with Bond funds. Students and staff use this space for many different STEM projects and hand-on activities!

Midland Public Schools
600 East Carpenter
Midland, Michigan 48640

MPS Website: www.midlandps.org

Twitter: @MichaelSharrow2 @MidlandPS

YouTube Channel: http://midps.org/youtube

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

MPS Board of Education Members:
⇒ Pam Singer, President
⇒ Angela Brandstadt, Vice President
⇒ Patrick Frazee, Treasurer
⇒ Scott McFarland, Secretary
⇒ Lynn Baker, Trustee
⇒ Brad Blasy, Trustee
⇒ Mary Fredell, Trustee

Email: board@midlandps.org

“Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement. Nothing can be done without hope and confidence.” — Helen Keller