Thank you for your patience as we worked through the development of our MPS Virtual Academy and Secondary Hybrid Models and Course Catalog.

Mandatory Form: If your child is planning to attend on-line classes via the MPS Virtual Academy full-time or part-time in combination with F2F classes via the Middle/High School Hybrid Model, it is imperative that families complete the “Virtual School Confirmation or Withdrawal Form” by the end of the day WEDNESDAY (8/12). Link to form: https://forms.gle/Vh34BugrQiYyWhDZ7

Note: A student who does not submit their confirmation/withdrawal form by the end of the day, August 12, will attend their MPS school F2F for the first semester of the 2020-21 school year.

MPS Virtual Academy Website
Link for more info: http://www.midlandps.org/Content/virtual-academy

Face-to-Face Instruction: Families whose child(ren) will attend F2F do not need to do anything at this time. You will receive information from your child’s school soon.

COVID-19 RETURN TO SCHOOL TOOLKIT

Below is the link to a 20-page document that was published by the Grand Traverse County Health Department. Please note that this is the resource Midland Public Schools will refer to regarding COVID-19 protocols.


MPS First Day of School for the 2020-21 school year is Monday, August 31, 2020. No School Friday, September 4 and Monday, September 7 for the Labor Day holiday weekend.

Here is a link to the 2020-21 MPS school year calendar: View the 2020-2021 District Calendar

MPSBoard Takes Action on DEI Proclamation Resolution

At the August 3 Special Board of Education meeting MPS Board members approved the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Proclamation “Resolution to Change the System, Eliminate Racism and Create More Equitable and Inclusive Schools for All.”

Here are just a couple of the Resolution statements included in the Resolution:

- WHEREAS, the Midland Public Schools Board of Education stands firmly against all acts of individual and systemic racism; and we will openly talk, challenge and confront racism.
- WHEREAS, as a School Board and District we value each and every student, family and staff member and are committed to creating an equitable and anti-racist system that honors and elevates all.

We hope you will take a moment to read the entire Resolution: https://www.midlandps.org/docs/district/depts/10/DEI/FinalRacismBoarddeclarationBOEApproved080320.pdf

Attend the MPS Virtual Academy for the 2020-21 school year.

Link for more info: http://www.midlandps.org/Content/virtual-academy

MPS Connect is a convenient communications tool for you to connect with me. Every message comes to my desktop. Either I or another MPS staff member will do all we can to reply to your message within the next work day.

https://www.midlandps.org/content2/706

— Michael E. Sharrow, Superintendent
MPS remains committed to ensuring an equitable, collaborative, and inclusive culture that empowers all to achieve success!

In the July 15 Special Edition Communique, MPS issued a "Call to Action" asking all members of our school community to identify racial injustices and bring those forth for action. Recently a member of our school community shared a concern about the inclusiveness of Edgenuity, our vendor-provided online curriculum. The district reviewed the specific concern and reached out to Edgenuity to share the concern and learn more about their diversity, equity, and inclusion practices.

In addition to providing the below statement, a representative from Edgenuity met with MPS District staff to explain in more detail their curriculum review and revision process with a strong focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion. Based on the information provided, MPS is confident that Edgenuity is committed to providing inclusive, accurate, and culturally responsive curriculum.

Statement from Edgenuity:

We are very thankful that you brought this to our attention, as we are actively working with our team to address concerns just like this one in our curricula. We are determined to revise any of our content that presents bias, unfair representation, or insensitive material. We will definitely take a look at this course and strive to do better. Thank you again for letting us know.

I also want to let you know that we are taking the following steps to ensure that we are improving our practices around diversity, equity, and inclusion:

- Led by our Curriculum teams, we will conduct independent, third-party audits of our curricula, products, and services for bias.
- We will conduct an independent, third-party audit of our internal practices and policies for bias.
- We will introduce required bias and DEI training initially for our managers and then expanding that to all employees.

Annual Notices — Per statute, the Midland Public Schools must notify stakeholders of applicable state and federal laws.

All students and parents are expected to review and be knowledgeable of the information included herein annually. These annual notices are included in MPS student handbooks, located on each of the schools websites.

Here is the link to the Annual Notices information: https://documentcloud.adobe.com/link/track?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:0629ec9c-5d81-4201-81c1-758d6ea8485d

Community DEI Workshop Opportunities

The Midland community has two DEI groups—Midland County Inclusion Alliance (MCIA) and Midland County Inclusion Council (MCIC). These groups’ consist of Midland area business leaders, volunteers and others “dedicated to fostering a community that values diversity, ensures equality and cultivates inclusion.”

MCIA & MCIC are hosting several upcoming events for community members (high school age and older) regarding DEI.

August 15 at 10:00 am — Inclusion 101
Will discuss why inclusion matters and how it improves our community

August 20 at 7 pm — How to be an Ally
Will focus on what it means to be an “ally” and why allies are important in our community.

September 17 — Inclusion 101 for Families [Grades K-3 at 7 pm; Grades 4-8, 8 pm]
Two separate introductory webinars will be held (led by MPS teachers) that will assist families of school-age children with age-appropriate information on diversity, equity and inclusion and the importance of an inclusive community.

Click here to register for any/all of these workshops: https://midlandinclusioncouncil.com

United Way of Midland County asked our office to share the attached document with MPS stakeholders who have been adversely affected by the 2020 Mid-Michigan dam failure.

Here is a link to the document, “Now What? Your Next Steps for Flood Recovery” from the Long Term Disaster Recovery Group.


Click on the link above for the entire 2-page document
Special Services Director Announcement

We send our best wishes to Kevin Gosson, MPS Special Services Director, who has announced his retirement as of the end of September.

Midland Public Schools welcomes Jennifer Brunsell as the new Midland PS Special Services Director. Ms. Brunsell comes to MPS from the Bay-Arenac ISD where she held the position of Special Education Director for Bay City Public Schools. In addition to the Director of Special Education, she also held the position of Transition Coordinator for Bay and Arenac Counties.

Ms. Brunsell has multiple years of experience teaching Special Education within the Saginaw and Bay-Arenac Intermediate School Districts. She holds a Masters of Education Leadership from SVSU and her Bachelor of Science in Education from Central Michigan University.

Please join us in welcoming Ms. Brunsell to Midland Public Schools.

Bond construction work continues across the District this summer

The 2.95 mills bond work dollars continue to do great things for Midland Public Schools’ buildings.

Work continues at the high schools, middle schools and throughout the District. As you can see in these photos, the new turf has been installed and is looking great at Midland Community Stadium and the new gymnasium floor has been installed at Jefferson Middle School.

Thank you MPS Voters for making MPS facilities safe, secure, comfortable and modern for students, staff, families and community members to enjoy and utilize.
BEST WISHES TO 2020 MPS GRADUATES. WE CAN’T WAIT TO HEAR ABOUT “OH THE PLACES YOU’LL GO.” (quoting our good friend, Dr. Seuss)
MPS IS GEARING UP FOR THE 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR!

Midland City Education Association Memorial Scholarship Recipients

The Midland City Education Association recently awarded four $1000 scholarships to high school graduating children of MCEA members. The following graduates are the four exceptional winners.

Madeleine Lang
Madeleine graduated from Midland High School and will be attending Grand Valley State University in the fall to study biochemistry on a pre-med track. Her parents are Heidi and Paul Lang and Mike Trebilcock.

Evan Metiva
Evan graduated from H. H. Dow High School and will be attending Alma College in the fall, majoring in Business Administration and Management. Evan will also be playing football for the Scots. His parents are Katherine and Mike Metiva.

Alec Newton
Alec graduated from H. H. Dow High School and will be attending Ferris State University in the fall to pursue a degree in Construction Management. His parents are Amy and Mark Newton.

Hannah Woehrle
Hannah recently graduated from Midland High School and will be pursuing a degree in International Relations. Her parents are Ann Schmitz and Jim Woehrle.

MPS Board of Education Members:

Scott McFarland, President
Pam Singer, Vice President
Phil Rausch, Secretary
Mary Fredell, Treasurer
Lynn Baker, Trustee
Brad Blasy, Trustee
Jon Lauderbach, Trustee
Email: board@midlandps.org

Wise words to ponder ...

"Be kind, for everyone you meet is fighting a hard battle."— Philo