Lyndon B. Johnson, 36th President of the United States from 1963 to 1969 once said,

“I believe the destiny of your generation—and your nation—is a rendezvous with excellence.”

Even though he was our United States President more than 50 years ago, I believe President Johnson’s words describe Midland Public Schools’ students today for so many reasons. Here are just a few examples why we believe MPS students are a rendezvous with excellence! The future of our nation is in great hands!

2020 MHS and DHS Martin Luther King, Jr. scholarship recipients:

Midland High: Taryn Vilema, Luca Jolly, Hannah Woehrle
Dow High: Lindsay Thompson

These recipients were chosen based on an essay they submitted demonstrating how they have actively engaged in activities and efforts to make Dr. King’s “Dream” of equality a reality.

Midland High Chemic took 1st Place at the Annual Michigan State University High School Programming Competition

In November, MHS students Aidan Wilbur-Gauthier, Maylee Rielie, and Nathan Striebel earned first place in the advanced division at MSU’s annual high school programming competition. Also competing for the Chemic were Jeffrey Root, Celine Crane, Ashley Siegmund, Eden Ozkan, Therese Joffre, Nicole James, Alexa Swanson, Julianna Thompson, and Ellie Haycock. The Chemic were coached by computer science teacher, Robert Fox.

Dow v. Midland Unified Basketball Game

In December, 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 High Unified Team is coached by Lee Meitler, and the Midland High team is coached by Dave Jenkins.

Midland High Seniors, Corbin Dittenber, Timmy Kipfmiller, Erika Leasher, Andrew Scheffer, and their 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. This impressive programming team was coached by MHS Teacher Robert Fox.

Impress!ve

In December, 100 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.
STEM Rocks at Adams!

We hear a lot about STEM in education these days, but what does it actually look like in our schools? We are excited about all of the STEM activities taking place at Adams, both during school and in our after-school clubs. Every grade level enjoys learning about Science and Technology through STEM activities, such as building and programming robots, studying light and sound waves, and designing models of the human brain.

Students from our fourth grade classes enjoyed their Human Brain study, which culminated in designing and creating models of the brain, and writing observations based upon those models. Fifth grade students have been busy this week building, programming, and testing robots.

Outside of school hours, many Adams students participate in our FIRST Robotics teams. Among our second and third grade students, we have five First Lego League, Jr. teams just beginning their season right now. These students will study a problem and design, build, and present solutions to those challenges. This fall our fourth and fifth grade students competed in two First Lego League teams. These teams built robots to compete against others, culminating with one of the teams qualifying for, and competing in, the state finals. Great job, Atoms!

If You Build It, They Will Come!

Thank you to the Midland community for supporting the bond issue that led to the remodeling of our school and the construction of the new addition. Our newly updated classrooms feature permanent walls, cubbies for student belongings and new educational technology tools for our teachers.

Students, staff, families, and community members have all commented how nice the new office is—it is now a wonderful space to work and welcome guests to the school and is in a much more functional location, at the main entrance to the school.

Very soon we will be in our addition, which includes a new gymnasium, cafeteria and platform stage. By the end of the school year we look forward to a newly remodeled, much more functional, modern Media Center (in the location of the old gym). Thank you, again, for supporting education in our community with these incredible facilities.
CHE students are fortunate to have four auxiliary classes each week: Spanish, Art, Physical Education and Music. Here is what students will be focusing on during 2nd Semester.

**ARTS**
- **Grades 1, 2, and 3**: We will introduce the theme *Where We Are in Place and Time* and focus on how art can document the past and current times. We will see how art has changed over time, how styles repeat themselves and how technology has impacted art. Students will create projects through clay and paper mache.
- **Grades K, 4, and 5**: We will focus on sculpture and learn about different materials that are used to construct 3D sculptures—clay, paper mache, upcycled materials and fiber.

We work hard at all levels to learn how to communicate in Spanish and appreciate the cultures and perspectives the language can provide!

**SPANISH**
- **1st grade**: clothing, body parts, five senses and foods we eat.
- **2nd grade**: foods we eat, families, where we live, the alphabet, writing simple descriptions.
- **3rd grade**: activities, people, places and times, writing our own versions of a classic children’s book.
- **4th grade**: complete sentences answering who, what, where, when and how re: family activities, create restaurant menus.
- **5th grade**: design and build a game focusing on personal questions in Spanish, dream vacation explorations of the Spanish speaking world.

**Physical Education**
- **K & 1st Grade**: gross motor skills (skiing, galloping, running, jumping, balancing, throwing, catching and kicking through activities and games).
- **2nd Grade**: throwing, catching, kicking, team games focusing on taking turns and being a good teammate.
- **3rd Grade**: intro to paddleton, volleyball, floor hockey.
- **4th & 5th Grades**: individual and team sports.

All students will begin MPS Strong testing in second semester.

**Music**
- **K and 1st Grade**: growing together to build stronger relationships through creating music.
- **2nd grade will** perform a fun Campfire Songs concert in May.
- **3rd grade will** perform a song at the "We All Belong" night in February and a musical in May with a similar theme.
- **4th grade** has a celebration concert in April.
- **5th grade** will present the CHE school song that they collaborated to compose with Mrs. Williams. Following their Ukulele (purchased with a Gerstacker grant) unit, they are looking forward to a fun visit by State Trooper Paetz, who is a very talented musician.

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In math, fourth graders inquire into what it means to divide before the teacher introduces the step-by-step process of division. Having a strong visual understanding of wholes and parts allows students to have a connection, or something to visualize, when asked to complete paper-pencil division tasks. Fourth grade teacher Geri Stajdl says, "Using inquiry to launch lessons allows students to draw on the experience when asked to do more abstract tasks. It deepens their level of understanding."

Fourth Grade students created their own science experiments to explore how chemical weathering happens. They had access to multiple chemicals and each group chose three to observe the changes with five different rock types. Students were able to conclude that different rocks have different weathering rates and different chemicals weather things faster. Students connected the experiment with real life when the discussion encompassed how weathering happens at different rates based on where you live.

Fifth Graders explored the concept of displacement in regard to volume through new Cereal City Science units. Working in small groups, students were able to use water in different containers to explore how objects with different weights and masses change the volume of water.

Third Grade students are collaborating on a Project Lead the Way (PLTW) project.

PLTW is the hands-on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) curriculum MPS implemented District-wide a couple of years ago.

In lower elementary, students spend a lot of time exploring the fundamentals of building and engineering. This can be done through whole class lessons, centers or materials for indoor recesses.
Congratulations to the Dow High Debate team who competed at States in December. 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 Place speaker in the Varsity division and Corrine earned 1st place in the novice division.

Congratulations to the entire team on an outstanding season and state finish!

FROM THE HH DOW HIGH INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE (IB) WORLD

IB Theory of Knowledge (TOK) students held a parent open house at the Alden B. Dow Home and Studio. Students in Sarah Pancost’s course take weekly visits to the Alden B. Dow Home and Studio. On January 15, class members presented each lesson they had during the year-long, off-campus partnership. Parents were able to immerse in the off-campus environment and learn first-hand what their students had accomplished in TOK.

Members of the 2020 IB Diploma Candidate class have been meeting with groups of sophomores who express interest in the IB Program. Class scheduling will take place in February for the 2020-21 academic year. Sophomores were able to ask questions and create sample schedules with the seniors.

Congratulations to Sophomore Ava Nelson, named Great Lakes Bay Region Girls Living STEM Honoree in December. Ava’s work as a Chief Science Officer (CSO) through STEM @ SVSU is incredibly impressive. She designed and implemented a community Flight Night at the Barstow Airport. Ava also gives back to the Chief Science Officers program, is a member the CSO Leadership Council and assisted with the coordination of the CSO Leadership Training Institute this past summer. Ava was honored at the Great Lakes Bay Regional Alliance.

HH DOW HIGH’S FIRST ROBOTICS COMPETITIVE SEASON KICKED OFF IN JANUARY

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.

The Robots are Coming ... The Robots are Coming from all over Michigan! Each year, HH Dow High hosts the FIRST Midland District Competition! This year’s exciting competition will be held March 19-21. Entry and parking are free! All are welcome to come, watch and cheer for your favorite robots!

This busy, award-winning Robotics team is coached by Dow High Math Teacher Sean Murray.

As much as The Charge, FIRST Team 2619, loves the competitive season, they are a very busy group as they give back all year long. Here are just a few examples: Nexteer FIRST Robotics Night at Saginaw Spirit Hockey Game, “Adopt-a-Street” section of Patrick Road, help out at elementary school carnivals, host Bot Bash in the fall & much more!
Midland High School

(989) 923-5181 <> website: mhs.midlandps.org
Principal: Ms. Tracy Speaker-Gerstheimer

The American Dream: “Change Your World” Social Action Projects

Midland High’s Sophomore English classes, taught by Megan Applegate, have been working on The American Dream: “Change Your World” Social Action Projects. These projects are defined as “a multi-step process in which youth address an issue they care about, learn about it and potential solutions to solve it, then take action to create a positive change on this issue (World Savvy, American Youth Leadership Program).” The objective for students is active citizenship through cooperative, critically engaging, and responsible action.

Students selected their own topics and then completed thorough research portfolios regarding the issues and impacts around those topics. Students then brainstormed and developed action plans with steps that they could take to make a positive impact on their community. Students created podcasts, websites, Instagram accounts, collected donations, wrote letters to Senators and articles for the newspaper, gave presentations to their peers and volunteered their time at places such as the Humane Society, Open Door and Shelter House, among other actions. Students will finish this project by presenting all of their efforts to their classmates with a summary of what they have learned through this process.

In true Chemic fashion, MHS students have worked to give back to their community!

MHS students Grace and Kay Leigh did a bake sale at the Midland Mall for the Humane Society of Midland County! What an incredibly thoughtful thing to do for the animals! Thank you, girls, for your kindness and generosity!

Another group of students from Ms. Applegate’s class visited Mr. Wah’s 4th grade class at Plymouth Elementary to teach a lesson about healthy eating and the importance of exercise!

Sixty-five MHS students from Computer Technology classes taught by Ms. Jozwiak and Mr. Last recently earned certification as Microsoft Office Specialist in Word 2016. This certification improves career readiness and gives students the tools to build a bright future.

Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS) certifications are the only globally recognized credentials that validate technical expertise in business productivity applications within the Microsoft Office Suite. Microsoft Office Specialists tap into the full features and functionality of Microsoft Office, resulting in increased job candidate marketability, improved academic performance, and enhanced confidence & productivity in the workplace.

Midland High’s FIRST Robotics Team, Like a Boss, FRC 5509, kicked off their 2020 Competitive Season with the Game Reveal, “Infinite Recharge.” We can’t wait to see the great things this team will do in 2020!

On January 15, 2020, International Baccalaureate (IB) Theory of Knowledge (TOK) students from both Midland & Dow High Schools hosted an Open House at the Alden B Dow Home & Studio. The students have been meeting there each week for the duration of their two-semester class and the Open House was a way for them to share the work they have done and to highlight the unique and valuable partnership between the TOK classes and the ABD H&S. TOK classes at both high schools are comprised of IB diploma candidates and non-diploma students wishing to expand their understanding of how people create and acquire knowledge. The course challenges students to think beyond their own perspectives, digging deep into the how and why we learn. Alden B Dow held the belief that all disciplines (especially the sciences and the arts) were dependent upon each other and we had a responsibility to our community to leave it a better place. His Way of Life Cycle easily parallels the IB traits students work to embody.

The TOK classes invited MPS staff, administration, and parents to visit and walk in the footsteps of an IB student through the H&S. Each station throughout the H&S shared a lesson, highlighted connections with the IB Learner Profile and some even encouraged the visitors to participate in activities.
In October, over 2500 band and orchestra students from all over the State of Michigan auditioned to become members of the Michigan All-State Honors Bands and Orchestras. Four JMS students were chosen to be members of the All-State Middle School Honors Band and Orchestra. They were featured at a performance in DeVos Hall in Grand Rapids on January 28. Pictured from left to right: Sarah Li (viola), Boaz Qiu (violin), George Gu (viola), and Jonathan Song (clarinet).

Mrs. Partanen’s and Mrs. Jacobs’ students had a great time visiting the Curling Center with Mr. Graves and his crew!

Some exciting pieces Ms. Pence’s art classes have been working on!

JMS Electronics Club: Kanushi Desai, Gigi Hong, Aryn De Martelaere and Viktor Pangburn

8th grade JMS bridge builders: Temi Oshin, Sarah Li and John Davis.

At our January Board of Education Meeting, students from Mr. Spurling’s Robo Builders class demonstrated to Board Members how they learned about simple gears and speed and torque with their Battle Robot. Robo Builders is part of the Project Lead the Way STEM curriculum MPS adopted a couple of years ago.

6th Grade Science classes learned about the digestive system and then created smoothies that met the criteria and constraints for digestive issues.

7th Grade Art students explore color

8th Grade Science uses bedbugs to study genetics, natural selection, mutations and population.

In December, the Northeast Drama Club presented “The Wizard of Odds.”

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Woody the Woolly Mammoth

Students at Woodcrest are currently in the midst of working together to bring Woody the Woolly Mammoth back home to the Woodcrest Media Center. As part of a reading promotion that began in December, students are helping Woody to make a step-by-step journey throughout the main corridors of the school. Each book that students read goes toward helping Woody to take another step in his journey to get back home. Thanks to the creativity of media paraprofessional, Dawn Smith, a new footprint is hung on the corridor walls for every ten books that students read. Due to the enthusiasm students have displayed for this program, Woody has already taken a total of 100 steps. This means students have read a total of 1,000 books thus far. At his current pace, Woody will most likely complete his step-by-step journey around the interior of the school and will return home to the Woodcrest Media Center sometime in late March. Keep up the good work, Woodcrest students. You are off to a great start!

Pieces of our Lives: IB Primary Years Programme @ Woodcrest

Woodcrest began its IB PYP journey six years ago and the tremendous growth in the teaching and learning is evident throughout the school.

4th Grade students worked on completing their unit: Where We Are in Place and Time. The central idea for this unit is: Exploration contributes to discovery and may lead to change.

3rd Grade teachers and students recently completed their work in their How We Express Ourselves unit with the central idea: The expression of ideas can be influenced by the environment.

1st Graders in Mrs. Norman/Mrs. Endsley’s class wrapped up their unit: Where We Are in Place and Time, which focuses on families and traditions. “These quilt squares are the pieces of OUR lives.”

Student voice, choice and ownership is evident all throughout the halls and classrooms at Woodcrest Elementary School.
Our Kindness campaign at the Pre-Primary Center continues. Pictured are some of our January kindness crusaders. Our PPC staff is totally committed to teaching our youngest learners acceptance and celebration of our differences through acts of kindness to one another.

In November, Ms. DeShai’s Young 5’s Developmental Kindergarten classroom kicked off their PYP unit, Who We Are, by exploring what makes a school community. They interviewed members of the Pre-Primary Center school community and asked about their role and responsibilities at school. They also focused on kindness and how to be a good friend.

At the November Board of Education meeting, students and staff presented information about the great teaching and learning going on at the Pre-Primary Center for our District’s youngest learners.

Ten years ago, Midland Public Schools increased its commitment to meet the needs of students by offering online courses to help students recover lost credits through the online program. In the Fall of the 2017-2018 school year, MPS launched the PATHS program to meet the needs of students who were not successful in the traditional high school setting. In PATHS, each student gets an individualized plan that takes them from where they are to graduation using a mix of online, traditional and Career and Tech Ed courses. We are excited as we watch these programs grow and thrive. From an initial 80 students the first year in the online programs at both high schools, we have grown to serve nearly 200 students each year in each of our building programs. This year we already have seven seniors ready to graduate and our 9th – 12th graders are getting back on track to accomplish their graduation goals. It is our continued mission to provide programs for all learners that help them reach successful graduation and prepare them for what comes next! We are proud of the eLearning team for their work with our students.

The Midland Public Schools 2.95 mills Bond was passed in February 2015, which means that bond dollars have been working hard for our schools for FIVE YEARS! Thank you, MPS Voters, for the secure school entrances, windows, doors, HVAC, flooring, lighting, buses, technology, controls, pavement, sidewalks, paint, insulation and so much more. Thanks to our voters, our schools are more energy efficient, comfortable and better able to accommodate 21st Century learning of collaboration and group work.

Thank you, MPS Voters! We sincerely appreciate your support!