A message from MPS Superintendent, Mike Sharrow:

Please allow me to get a little philosophical in this, our 2nd Our Schools of the 2020-21 school year.

Charles Dickens wrote in *A Tale of Two Cities*,

“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of light, it was the season of darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair.”

(When I first read this I had to look up the word ‘epoch’ to be sure I knew what it meant. According to Merriam-Webster, epoch means, “an event or a time marked by an event that begins a new period or development.”) In 2020, our epoch was certainly the pandemic, racial unrest in our nation, and for our Midland community, the catastrophic floods in May.

I don’t know about you, but I sure believe that Mr. Dickens could have written his “It was the best of times, it was the worst of times…” passage about our 2020 world, state, community and school district instead of in his novel published in 1859 before and during the French Revolution. Many of his phrases in this passage are so apparent, but please bear with me as I fill in the blanks from the perspective of our district:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>It was the best of times</th>
<th>MPS staff members stepped up to the plate over &amp; over again to make virtual and face-to-face (f2f) learning come to life for students. The MPS food service team provided free meals to children during the spring and summer of 2020.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>It was the worst of times</td>
<td>Pandemic, uncertainty, fear, unimaginable flooding &amp; destruction, financial uncertainty, racial &amp; social-emotional turmoil.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It was the age of wisdom</td>
<td>The MPS team rolled up our sleeves, thought outside the traditional educational “box” and put the best virtual and f2f learning plans in place for students for the 2020-21 school year, including developing and implementing new safety protocols and procuring enough PPE for the district’s students and staff.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It was the age of foolishness</td>
<td>Madness is one synonym for foolishness. Madness sure seems to be a good word for 2020, especially at a time when we have had to figure out how to comply and make our next plan of action to keep up with governmental rules, regulations and mandates that keep changing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It was the epoch of belief</td>
<td>We had to believe it was all true because we kept seeing the COVID numbers flash across the computer &amp; TV screens.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It was the epoch of incredulity</td>
<td>Incredulity is a great word for the astonishment, uncertainty, ambiguity, and confusion experienced this year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It was the season of light</td>
<td>We see the light shining in our students eyes every day whether they are learning face-to-face and/or virtually.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It was the season of darkness</td>
<td>Darkness when our schools were closed from March through June.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It was the spring of hope</td>
<td>With winter just around the corner, despair is easy for us all to experience, especially our students who may become overwhelmed and frightened. However, we know that hope springs anew as we all work together as a united team of educators, families and community partners for the educational and social-emotional wellbeing of our children!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Educationally yours,

Michael E. Sharrow, Superintendent
Adams Celebrates World Teachers’ Day!
We are so thankful for the dedication and efforts of all of our wonderful teachers here at Adams Elementary School. Last week we celebrated World Teachers’ Day. The PTO Hospitality Committee provided snacks for our teachers, and they were much appreciated. Thank you, teachers, for making a difference every day!

Adams Garden Harvest Begins
Adams students and staff enjoyed reaping what was sowed! The Adams Garden is planted and maintained by students, staff, and amazing community volunteers. Every fall our students learn about how to tend, and harvest, the bounty from the garden. The fresh vegetables help teach important lessons about the life cycle, plants, perseverance, and community…and they are delicious! Last week students and teachers were in the garden, weeding and gathering the first part of the fall harvest. The garden would not exist without the help and attention from our essential volunteers, so thank you very much to everyone who helped with the garden, once again!

Every day is a great day at Adams! This holds true whether you are engaged in our face-to-face classes or our online Virtual Academy. Every day our award-winning teachers and staff strive to help our students learn, grow, and challenge themselves in every way possible, while paying attention to the whole child. Regardless of the changes in the world around us, we continue to provide a comprehensive education for all Adams students. Instruction continues in all core academic areas, including reading, writing, math, science, and social studies, and our students also enjoy art, music, physical education, and world language classes. Assessing and moving students forward in reading, writing, and math, after all of the changes last school year, is a primary focus for us in 2020-21. We have worked very hard to put into place safety protocols and support systems to ensure the physical and emotional safety of all of our students, teachers and staff. Meeting the social-emotional needs of our students, both in-person and online, is paramount. We are blessed with a diverse, wonderful community that supports the education of our students. Your partnership with us is vital. We are thrilled to be back in school and seeing (both virtually & f2f) our Adams students and staff every day.

— Scott Cochran, Adams Principal

Central Park Elementary
(989) 923-6836 <> website: cpe.midlandps.org
Principal: Ms. Shannon Blasy

We love recognizing all the awesome, caring things that our Explorers do while at school. One of the ways we do that is through our Student of the Month program. When our students are recognized as Student of the Month, they get to take a CPE Has Character yard sign home to display in their family’s yard/window. Watch for these great Central Park signs as you are traveling around Midland.

Central Park’s 5th Grade students enjoy spending time in Orchestra and learning about their musical instruments from Mr. Will.

Central Park Elementary’s very special friend, Luna, their Bernedoodle service dog, loves spending time in the classrooms helping students and reading with them!

Ms. Hall and Ms. Dulude are decorating the CPE halls for the fall season by showcasing their students’ festive artwork.
Thank you, Chestnut Hill Elementary Parent Teacher Organization and families! We love our new playground equipment!

Four years ago our CHE PTO set a goal of raising money to purchase new playground equipment. After successfully working with our families and the CHE community, their goal was reached. Our new equipment was put together and installed on our playground in September.

A big thank you to CHE parent Danielle Larson and past parent Andrea Shepard for their efforts coordinating the fundraising. Also, thanks to Plainfield Excavating for their work and the Midland Firefighter Youth Foundation and Midland Noon Rotary Club for the grants to help with the purchase of the equipment. We truly appreciate the efforts of all our PTO members and families who worked so hard to purchase this new equipment. Our students are so fortunate to have great support from our PTO and families.

As we move into the school year, our current PTO board members will prepare to leave our PTO as their children are moving on to middle school. We are currently looking for parents interested in becoming a part of this amazing group. There are several leadership roles available. It is important that we fill these roles so we can continue the tradition of our PTO and families working together to make our school a great place to learn. Please contact the school office if you are interested (989-923-6634).

New Safety Protocols

Students are adjusting well to the new safety protocols in place. Desks are distanced apart and each desk has an individual safety shield. Students eat lunch in their classrooms in order to stay in smaller crowds. Teachers have been creatively designing their classrooms in order to store individual student supplies and allow students to have enriching learning experiences while remaining safe.

Fall at Plymouth

Last fall’s discarded pumpkins produced a bountiful patch at Plymouth Elementary. Our kindergarteners are exploring the garden and focusing on the structure and function of the parts of the pumpkin plant, while also concentrating on its life cycle. They are using their Chromebooks to photograph important and interesting discoveries. We harvested many large pumpkins, which will provide even more learning opportunities for our youngest Pioneers!

Second Grade: Who We Are

Over the past month, second graders at Plymouth Elementary have been immersed in their Who We Are unit of inquiry, learning about how citizens help make a community unique. While we weren’t able to extend invitations to a variety of community members as we have in the past, we were able to capitalize on learning about members of our own MPS community! Thank you to Mr. Jeff Jaster (Associate Superintendent), Mrs. Margaret Doan (Principal), Officer Andrew Hawkins (School Resource Officer), Mrs. Jackie Warner (Youth Intervention Specialist) and Mr. Lawrence Henry (Building Maintenance) for sharing your roles and responsibilities with our 2nd graders and offering your diverse perspective on ways in which you live, work, play and serve in our great community.
Congratulations to the Charger Girls’ Golf Team for qualifying for State finals! The team earned the right to play in the State finals by placing 3rd in the Division 7 Regional tournament.

Midland Public Schools offers 45 different CTE courses for high school students to choose from when making their course selections during their four years of high school.

Here is one of the great CTE options from which they may choose:

Car Care/Auto Tech, offered at Dow High and taught by Lance Ransom!

International Baccalaureate Programme

Ms. Sarah Pancost’s IB Theory of Knowledge (TOK) students meet once a week at the Alden B. Dow Home and Studio (ABDHS). Ms. Pancost designs lessons in collaboration with the Home and Studio staff. The lessons emphasize course concepts and allow students to connect their coursework to architecture and Midland. The partnership is a key element of Dow High’s successful International Baccalaureate Diploma Program.

Pictures: Students canoe Dow Gardens and the pond surrounding the Alden B. Dow Home and Studio. This lesson emphasized how perspective impacts understanding. Theory of Knowledge students discuss underlying assumptions and source reliability on the terraces of the Alden B. Dow Home and Studio.

The IB Learner Profile is core to the IB Program. Students categorized information about Alden B. Dow under the different IB Learner Profile traits and discussed the limitations and benefits of categories and groupings in this lesson. All TOK/ABDHS lessons have been held outdoors with masks and social distancing.

On October 8, these students attended the virtual conference for planning the Midland Area Community Foundation’s Kindness Week: Tess Striebel (12); Brooke Seymour (11); Fatimah Khan (12); Ethan Houck (11). Kudos, Tess, Brooke, Fatimah & Ethan for representing MPS so admirably!

National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists

Each year, based on PSAT scores, 16,000 of the nation’s high scorers (representing less than 1 percent of the nation’s high school graduating seniors) qualify as Semifinalists in the annual National Merit Program. Congratulations and best wishes to these HH Dow High National Merit Semifinalists! Stay tuned. The National Merit Finalists will be announced in the spring.

Abigail Jendretzke Olivia Miller Caleb Qiu Faith Tabler Rachel Weldy Andrew Zhou
MHS National Merit Semi-Finalist!

Every year, approximately 50,000 students (out of 1.4 million juniors) qualify for recognition based on their PSAT score earned in the fall of their junior year. Approximately 34,000 of these students receive Letters of Commendation from the National Merit Scholarship Corporation.

The remaining 16,000 students—those whose scores put them in the top 99th percentile in their state—become National Merit Semifinalists. Of these, around half win scholarships after submitting their high school records, recommendations from teachers and a personal essay.

Midland High is proud of our National Merit Semi-Finalist, Zoren Berlanga. Congratulations!

Here Comes the Sun!

The Midland High Senior Class of 2021 met on Friday, October 2, for a Senior Sunrise! Students wore their masks and spread out across the football field to watch the sun come up together as a “kick-off” to their senior year. It was a laid-back way to socialize while enjoying breakfast (provided by Chartwells) and watch the sunrise. Mrs. Speaker, MHS principal, gave a motivational speech before they posed for a class photo – by forming the letter M on the field – just before the sun rose over Midland High. The scoreboard commemorated this special event as well.

In a time when social interaction may be limited, MHS seniors found a unique way to foster class unity and Chemic Pride!

Congratulations to the MHS team who took first place at the 2020 A.H. Nickless Innovation Award Competition this past spring

The team’s project was a meal-planning app to help low-income households save money and reduce food waste. “While there are many meal-planning apps available, none of them are very useful for low-income families. These families need low-cost, nutritious ingredients that minimize food waste and are easy to prepare,” the team members wrote in their project abstract. “Existing apps target special diets, focus on fine dining and do not consider the restricted. Our app will address the problem of food waste and saving money for low-income families.” The team was coached by MHS teacher, Robert Fox. Each team member received a $5,000 scholarship and a $20,000 STEM grant for the school. In addition to the scholarships, grant and plaque, the team will receive a 3D-printed traveling trophy to showcase at their school for the next year. The A.H. Nickless Innovation Award was created to honor the memory of the late Arthur H. Nickless, a local innovator with a goal of inspiring passion for science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). Twelve teams entered the 2020 competition.

The 2020 Midland High School Team:
(from left to right)
⇒ Corbin Fleming-Dittenbir (Leader)
⇒ Drew Scheffer
⇒ Timmy Kipfmiller
⇒ Ericka Leasher

Oh, Say Can You See!

Recently, the Midland High Meistersingers performed the National Anthem at an MHS home football game. At a time when music performances are so rare, this was an inspiring moment for everyone who was able to hear the performance!

MHS by the Numbers — Fall 2020

| Total student enrollment for fall semester 2020 | 1281 |
| Students in Grade 12 | 326 |
| Students in Grade 11 | 367 |
| Students in Grade 10 | 303 |
| Students in Grade 9 | 285 |
| Student enrollment AP & IB courses | 502 |
| Student enrollment International Baccalaureate courses | 280 |
| Student enrollment Advanced Placement | 222 |
| Students participating in fall athletics | 342 |
| Boys’ sports participants | 181 |
| Girls’ sports participants | 161 |
| National Honor Society members | 82 |
| More Juniors than projected in the spring | 75 |
| More Seniors than projected in the spring | 10 |
At the October 19 Board of Education meeting, four very poised Jefferson students, Margaret Hitt, T’Emi Oshin, Jessica Chai and Sahiba Kaur, shared information virtually with Board and audience members about the poster presentation they were invited to share on Sept. 24 at the International Space Station Research & Development Conference. Jefferson was the only middle school invited to present. Christine Brillhart is their JMS Science Teacher and Advisor.

This fall, the Jefferson Native Plant garden received updating. The borders were replaced, gardens divided and moved, and new bird houses were installed. This was an Eagle Scout project organized and led by Adam Gayheart, a former Jefferson student, which included the help of 11 volunteers that put in 87 hours of work. Kudos, Adam and volunteers, for sharing your time & skills!

The Jefferson 8th grade science classes have been exploring the size and scale of our solar system objects and how those objects move through various hands on activities. They have used modeling dough to divide to make approximate planet sizes, they made an accurate scale of the planet sizes using various spheres, and they scaled the distance between planets using paper rolls. Lastly, they have been using floor hockey sticks to explore friction on different floor surfaces. By the end of the unit, students will be able to solve whether an unknown object heading toward Earth poses a risk to Earth by determining its’ characteristics, size, and motion.

Mrs. Jacobs Grade 6 Social Studies class learns about the seven continents.

Northeast students are glad to be back. They are adjusting to face masks and desk shields.

7th grade Science students were investigating properties of static charges using charged balloons.

6th grade students viewing onion membranes, cheek cells, sugar and sand.

8th grade Learning Target for Rockets based on NASA experiments and how they are trying to land more space crafts on the Moon and Mars. Students will engineer a rocket to safely and slowly deliver a payload to the ground. Students will collect data and use it to design solutions to increase success of parachute deployment and lesson impact force.

VIP Fridays - Viking Important Person
Students who “get caught doing something extraordinary” receive a coupon that is put in a box. Every Friday, names are drawn to be the VIP of the week! This is a long-standing tradition at Northeast. The students enjoy the excitement and the treat.
Siebert Elementary

(989) 923-7835 <> website: sbe.midlandps.org
Principal: Mr. Paul Schroll

The Siebert Elementary PTO sponsored a fundraiser this fall called the "Better Together Virtual Siebert 5K"! This event was not only a fundraiser, but an event to celebrate health and a sense of community during these difficult times. There were commemorative T-shirts printed and each student even received an official Event Bib. The funds raised will be used towards the purchase of 2 new water bottle refill stations/drinking fountains for Siebert, replacement filters for in-classroom air scrubbers that were donated by a couple Siebert families, and to give the teachers extra funds for classroom supplies and educational programs. Their goal was to raise $3,500 for this event and they ended up surpassing that goal and raised $5,042!! Way to go, Bulldogs!! Thank you for your support!

Siebert parent volunteers come through again at the beginning of the school year by assisting in the arrival procedure for students each morning and at lunch. Parents are helping students maintain social distancing, checking temperatures as students arrive, and even supervising lunch and recess. We are all working together to make it a great day to be a Bulldog every day!

Woodcrest Elementary

(989) 923-7940 <> website: wce.midlandps.org
Principal: Mr. Jeff Pennex

Although the pandemic certainly has caused countless changes to standard operating procedures and routines, Woodcrest staff and students have done an excellent job of working together to make the best of a difficult situation. A great example of this kind of teamwork is the collaboration between Dawn Smith, Woodcrest's Media Center paraprofessional, and Woodcrest teachers and students so that books can continue to be checked out from the Woodcrest Media Center. While current safety protocols prohibit students from visiting the Woodcrest Media Center, they do not prohibit its great resources from being available to students. To make this possible, students peruse Woodcrest's extensive collection of books online and then "order" a book that they would like to checkout. After receiving students' book requests, Mrs. Smith pulls the titles that were ordered and delivers them to classrooms on a cart where they are checked out to students via a mobile scanning system. Thanks to her leadership, flexibility, and hard work, nearly 1,500 books have been checked out in the three weeks that this program has been up and running!

Sticking with the theme mentioned above of flexible problem solving, Ms. Wendy LaCourt, Woodcrest's physical education teacher, created a cornhole unit as a means of developing eye/hand coordination while delivering physical education classes outside. Students unquestionably enjoyed the unit and the opportunity to participate in a culminating cornhole tournament. Although the Woodcrest gym is closed because of current safety protocols, Ms. LaCourt's ingenuity helped to create a meaningful and enjoyable experience for students.

IT'S A GREAT DAY TO BE A BULLDOG!
We are off to a spectacular start here at the Pre-Primary Center at Carpenter Street School. As in most situations in life, our children acclimate and adjust far easier than we adults adjust. All of the children here have adjusted to masks and safety protocols. I want to give a big shout out to our teachers for going the extra mile with all the cleaning and procedural adjustments. We are lucky to have so many options for providing ways and means to personal protection items provided by the district, so all of us feel we are doing our very best to ward off germs. We are also so lucky to be able to have three very large play areas so not only are our children not co-mingling in classes but also while on playgrounds. We are beginning to find a groove to our days.

Our Kindness Wednesdays are a big hit. Wearing our kindness t-shirts and putting children’s pictures on the kindness bulletin board are all wonderful ways to teach children how to be kind.

With five weeks under our belt, the children have learned about hand washing, bathroom use, recess safety, classroom routines and expectations. Learning all the skills necessary to move through the day are of course the focus in the first few weeks. Embedded are the foundational academic skills of early literacy and early math.

PATHS Principal: Jeff Lauer
(989) 923-5084
lauerjm@midlandps.org

PATHS is now in its 4th year and continues to make a difference for students who find that the traditional school setting is not a good fit. PATHS is a self-paced program where each student receives an individualized plan that takes them from their current academic credit standing to accomplish their goal of high school graduation. Each student's individual plan includes a mix of online, traditional & CTE courses that sets them on the path to pursue their college & career goals.

A few details about MPS Financials:

⇒ Revenue/Expenditures: During the 2019-20 school year, Midland Public Schools had over $85.9 million in both revenues and expenditures in the education of over 7,700 students. Our District is always mindful of keeping the dollars as close to the classroom as possible. As a matter of fact, when you look at general fund expenditures by function, over 81% of 2019-20 expenditures were classified as classroom instruction, student support, instructional support or support services.

⇒ General Fund Balance: MPS has added to its general fund balance for 5 consecutive years affording for increased investment in innovative programs, student support services, and employee wage and benefit increases.

⇒ Efficient Administration and Operations: MPS ranks amongst the most efficient school districts in the state in general fund dollars devoted to administration and operations per student. A recent state bulletin ranked MPS in the top 5% in business and administration and top 12% in operations and maintenance.

⇒ Capital Projects: In addition to Bond projects, MPS has invested over $2.4 million dollars over the past five years to capital improvement projects throughout the district. Major projects include work on the Maintenance and Transportation building, air conditioning at Northeast Middle School, classroom furniture, and paving throughout the district.

⇒ Gifts/Grants: In the past five years, MPS has applied for and received over $3 million dollars in funds to create innovative programs including a comprehensive DK-12 STEM curriculum, DEI initiatives, and school/student safety initiatives.

⇒ Audit Results: The district receives an annual audit examining all facets of fiscal operations (general fund, bond funds, etc.) through a multi-faceted and rigorous testing process. MPS routinely receives an 'unmodified opinion' or clean audit. We are proud to report that for 2019-20 MPS again received an 'unmodified opinion.'
TO: Midland Public Schools’ District Residents

FROM: Michael E. Sharrow, Superintendent

Even if you don’t have a son/daughter, grandchild, niece/nephew, neighbor, etc. who attends MPS today, Midland Public Schools is YOUR community’s public school district!

Midland PS schools are in your neighborhood, buses are on the roads morning and afternoon, may have educated your child once upon a time, provides the educational foundation of our community’s workforce, have been a source of pride and educational excellence for the Midland community for many, many years!

Please allow us to share some recent MPS successes and points of pride. In these four pages, we are excited to share our annual “State of the District.” This year’s State of the District may read differently than past years. As we all know, our world, nation, state and community is living through a very different time than we ever have before. This year’s State of the District will be through the COVID-19 “looking glass” in which we are all living and have been since this past March.

Thank you, Midland Community, for supporting, encouraging, volunteering and cheering for our district, schools, students, staff and families!

Educationally yours,

Michael E. Sharrow, Superintendent of Schools

MPS Enrollment — 2000 through 2021

As you can see, the trajectory of MPS enrollment from 2005 through 2015 was a tough ten years for MPS (as it was for many school districts in the State of Michigan). However, from 2015 through 2020 MPS enrollment has stabilized in the range of 7650-7750 students.

Having said that, 2020-21 is looking like it will be somewhat of a “blip” in enrollment for MPS. We have heard in our COVID-19 world that several families are choosing to homeschool and/or kindergarten parents are choosing to hold their children until 2021-22 to see what COVID looks like at that time.
Midland Public Schools Student Academic Performance

In past years, this State of the District would highlight our MPS students' academic performance. Unfortunately, we won't be able to include it in the same format this year because there were no Michigan M-STEP, AP or SAT tests this past spring because of the mandated closure of schools State-wide for the pandemic.

2020 Niche Rankings

From niche.com, “The 2020 Best School Districts ranking is based on rigorous analysis of key statistics and millions of reviews from students and parents using data from the U.S. Department of Education. Ranking factors include state test scores, college readiness, graduation rates, SAT/ACT scores, teacher quality, public school district ratings, and more.”

Midland Public Schools — Overall Niche Grade: A

⇒ Midland Public Schools was ranked #20 out of 556 Districts in the State of Michigan, which puts MPS among the top 3.5% of Districts in the State.

⇒ Midland Public Schools was ranked #553 out of 10,782 Districts in America, which puts MPS among the top 5.1% of Districts in the Country.

HH Dow High — Overall Niche Grade: A+

⇒ HH Dow High was ranked #24 out of 759 public high schools in Michigan, which ranks DHS among the top 3.1% in the State.

Midland High — Overall Niche Grade: A-

⇒ Midland High was ranked #70 out of 759 public high schools in Michigan, which ranks MHS among the top 9.2% in the State.

US News 2020 High School Rankings

From usnews.com, “The U.S. News Best High Schools rankings include data on more than 24,000 public high schools in 50 states and the District of Columbia. Nearly 18,000 schools were ranked on six factors based on their performance on state assessments and how well they prepare students for college.”

H. H. Dow High School

⇒ DHS was ranked #40 out of 645 schools ranked in Michigan, which puts Dow High among the top 6.2% of high schools in the State.

⇒ DHS was ranked #1,249 out of 17,792 nationally ranked schools, which puts Dow High among the top 7% of high schools in the country.

Midland High School

⇒ MHS was ranked #80 out of 645 schools, which puts Midland High among the top 12.4% of high schools in the State.

⇒ MHS was ranked #2,323 out of 17,792 national ranked schools, which puts Midland High among the top 13% of high schools in the country.
Midland Public Schools is grateful for, and always mindful of being fiscally responsible with, taxpayer dollars!

**Bond Projects** — Since the winter of 2015 when Midland Public Schools’ voters graciously approved a 2.95 mills bond to improve facilities, transportation, technology and infrastructure, the bond dollars have been working hard and making extraordinary updates/improvements across the District. According to the bond language approved by the State Treasury Department, the bonds must be sold in a 3-part draw series, which determines the 2015-2026 work timeline. The total generated by this 2.95 mills bond will be $121.4 million. The District has prided itself in our transparency in reporting how the bond dollars have been utilized since its inception just five years ago. Below are just a few ways the bond $’s have been working hard for MPS students, staff, stakeholders and community!

81.3% of General Fund Expenditures is earmarked to be spent in direct instruction/support for MPS students!

**General Fund Expenditures BY FUNCTION: $86,411,503**

Similar to our personal savings accounts, the MPS Fund Balance is there to help the district during tough times. As you can see, we are very thankful we had worked hard to “shore up” the MPS Fund Balance because with the PPE we’ve had to purchase for f2f instruction, it is coming in handy!
Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Update

DEI has been a major emphasis for Midland Public Schools for the past several years. At the July 20, 2020 Board of Education Meeting, Board members adopted a District Vision Statement centered around DEI:

*Lead with respect, trust and courage. Ensure an equitable, collaborative and inclusive culture. Enable all to achieve success.*

The MPS DEI Strategy has five key focus areas: Governance, Leadership, Customers, Community, Reputation.

This past summer, the MPS Board of Education participated in two DEI Workshops, took action on a Board of Education Proclamation entitled, *Resolution to Change the System, Eliminate Racism and Create More Equitable and Inclusive Schools for All.*

Link to the full proclamation: [https://www.midlandps.org/MPS_BOE_DEI_Proclamation](https://www.midlandps.org/MPS_BOE_DEI_Proclamation)

Here are just a couple of the powerful statements in the Proclamation:

“4. The Board and School District commit to engaging in deep learning, dialogue, action steps and establishing real relationships and partnerships with families and other organizations that are working to dismantle racism and to ensure all students achieve their full potential and succeed.

5. The Board is committed to honest and transparent transformation of District culture and practices so students, families, community members and staff feel safe, visible, valued, respected and connected.”

At the August 17 DEI Workshop, the Board members discussed the alignment of strategic action plans within the Board subcommittees, potential metrics to track District DEI progress, and the application of the “lens of equity” to future District plans.

“Diversity is about all of us, and about us having to figure out how to walk through this world together.” —Jacqueline Woodson

It wouldn't be a State of the District if we didn't include some MPS Points of Pride! Here are just a few:

⇒ Through the years, MPS high school students continue to achieve outstanding, consistent success with International Baccalaureate and Advanced Placement courses, programs and tests.

⇒ Year after year, MPS students and programs receive SVL, district, regional, state and even national awards in art, music, journalism, robotics, BPA, DECA, math, science, debate, athletics ...  

⇒ In 2020, MPS had 33 FIRST Robotics Teams for students in grades 2-12.

⇒ MPS adopted a strong STEM Strategic Plan a few years ago. A major component of the MPS STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Strategic Plan is Project Lead the Way curriculum for students from Kindergarten through Grade 12. PLTW creates an engaging, hands-on classroom environment that engages students in hands-on activities, projects and problems that are reflective of real-world challenges. (MPS was able to adopt PLTW because of extremely generous donations of our foundation partners in the Midland community.)