THANK YOU, MIDLAND VOTERS!

In 2013-14, MPS did a thorough facility assessment to determine the condition of our facilities and developed a long-range facilities plan to assure that MPS facilities would provide suitable learning environments for MPS students. As a result of this assessment, it was determined that four areas of concern needed to be addressed: Student Safety & Security; Increase Energy Efficiency; Create 21st Century Learning Environments; Address Aging Facilities. The District examined the possible ways to financially address these staggering needs. In February 2015, MPS voters graciously approved the bond that would generate $121M over the life of the bond. Here is a high-level overview of updates that have been completed to date:

**Facility updates** have included:
- **Safety** — secure entries, video cameras in public areas, door access controls, outdoor lighting, better traffic patterns in parking lots, improved heating/cooling and ventilation
- **Increase Energy efficiency** — new heating/cooling systems, replacement of single pane windows, state of the art HVAC controls, new lighting
- **21st Century learning environments** made through state-of-the-art maker spaces and media centers for group work and collaboration among students, whiteboards, classroom lighting & technology upgrades

**Technology** — 1:1 student technology, updated copiers & printers, server infrastructures

Transportation — New buses to replace aging fleet, wheel chair buses for special needs students

The bonds were to be sold in a series of three. Series 1 bonds were sold in April 2015, Series 2 in May of 2019 and Series 3 will be sold in spring 2023. Thank you, MPS Voters! Approximately $110 million of the bond funds have been utilized to date to improve MPS facilities, technology, transportation & infrastructure. MPS has performed millions of dollars of construction work beyond the original scope with the interest earnings, bid savings and unspent contingency funds. Click on this link for bond projects info: [https://www.midlandps.org/News/52#sthash.tpOr5gLJ.3O7Oj8o1.dpbs](https://www.midlandps.org/News/52#sthash.tpOr5gLJ.3O7Oj8o1.dpbs)

The Midland Public Schools Annual STATE OF THE DISTRICT is included as Pages 9-12 of this October Our Schools. We hope you will check it out!

MIDLAND HIGH VICTORY NIGHT 2021

Special memories were made the evening of Sept. 13 when Midland County students had the chance to score a touchdown with the Chemin varsity football team and cheer with the Chemic cheer squad. Everyone on the field—football players, cheerleaders, pommers, Chemic band members—and everyone in the stands saw and felt the pure joy expressed on the faces of ALL who participated!
Thank you, Adams PTO!
The Adams PTO supports our school, teachers, and students in so many ways, for which we are very appreciative!
From the hospitality snacks to the classroom materials, this dedicated group of parents step in to meet needs and to make Adams an even better place to learn and play. Recently, one of their more visible gifts included sprucing up the school grounds by working in the flower beds, edging sidewalks, and planting flowers. Thank you, Adams PTO. We appreciate you!

Safety Patrol in Full Swing
“Thank you!” to the 4th and 5th graders just completing their first tour on the Safety Patrol for the 2021-22 school year, and “Welcome aboard” to the students who are starting on the Safety Patrol next week. Safety patrollers are students who want to help out and give back to the Adams school community, helping other students and family members, and learning leadership skills along the way. They serve at cross walks, at school entrances, and around the school grounds, keeping students safe and helping those that need assistance. Thank you, also, to Mrs. Kraut for her leadership and guidance with the Safety Patrol.

‘Hello Neighbor’ Art at Adams
Mrs. Dulude and several of her Art classes made great use of our Colors of the World crayons while creating their ‘Hello Neighbor’ art projects. Students learned about self-portraits and practiced drawing and creating artwork of themselves. They participated in “Neighboring Week” at the end of September by giving their artwork to a neighbor and saying hello. Way to go, Adams Atoms! Thank you for being welcoming members of our community!

Congratulations to our September Students of the Month!
These awesome kiddos were recognized by their teachers and classmates as being caring. Great job, everyone!

Students from Ms. Kret’s class got to put the big poms in our school wide pom jar! Once our jar is filled we get to do an awesome school wide activity! Students get to put them in if they are seen doing something above and beyond!

Ms. Birge and Max love spending time with Nellie, our Central Park Elementary therapy dog! Nellie helps us all stay calm and refocus!
Congrats to our Great Lakes Loons All-Star Educators: Mrs. Baker, Mr. Fair and Mrs. Parker, presented by Farm Bureau Insurance.

These dedicated educators were nominated by several parents for the many great things they do with kids each and every day. For winning, each teacher received:

- A $250 mini-grant from Farm Bureau Insurance for classroom supplies.
- Two Loons tickets for each one of their students.
- A Zoom call with someone from the Loons organization (Lou E., team member, front office member, etc.) to use as part of a future lesson plan for their class.

We are proud of them and so happy that they are teaching at Chestnut Hill!

Ms. Kling’s 2nd Grade students pose with the United States Constitution that they put together on Constitution Day—September 17!

CHE Chipmunks celebrated Midland Neighboring Week in September! We are thankful for our neighbors!

Cooperation is Essential in Achieving Goals!

First Grade classes at Plymouth Elementary kicked off the school year learning about how cooperation is key to student collaboration and classroom culture. To end the unit, first graders worked together to build a structure and share how cooperation helped them develop a final product. Way to go, Pioneers!

Spirit Week

Pioneers have enjoyed participating in spirit week to support MHS homecoming!

Thank you, Family Intervention Specialist Erin Pung, for helping organize this fun week for students and staff!

Leadership Day

Each year, the Violence Prevention Partnership works with MPS schools to promote kindness and belonging for students. Students were chosen from Grade 5 to work together to plan a school-wide kindness week. During this week, students will participate in different activities that promote caring attitudes and belonging.

Thank you, Ms. Crawford!

SVSU student teacher Alyssa Crawford has been student-teaching at Plymouth since the beginning of the year. Students have enjoyed getting to know her and having her take over as the lead teacher.

Ms. Crawford will finish up her student teaching in November and continue with her special education student teaching. Thank you Ms. Crawford! We will miss you and have enjoyed having you at Plymouth!
**National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists**

(L to R) Kenneth Gu, Taylor Huschke, Omer Khan, Toluwani Oshin, Laura Leiti

These academically talented high school seniors have an opportunity to continue in the competition for some 7,500 National Merit Scholarships worth $30 million that will be offered next Spring. To be considered for a Merit Scholarship award, Semifinalists must fulfill several requirements to advance to the Finalist level of the Competition. Finalists will win a National Merit Scholarship, earning the Merit Scholar title.

**2022 Commended National Merit Scholarship Program Students**

(L to R) Sebastian Park, Noah Black, Andrew Soto, Amardeep Dhingra, Andrew Gilbert, TJ Neuenfeldt, Lucy Teed, Ellyana Tierney, Abigail Yoo, Madeleine Hong

Commended Students placed among the top 50,000 students who entered the 2022 competition by taking the 2020 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. Those being named Commended Students have demonstrated outstanding potential for academic success.

— Spokesperson for NMSC.

Student: Charlie Potts, Grade 9

Class: Introduction to Engineering Design

Introduction to Engineering Design is the first course in the Engineering pathway for MPS. Students learn to design and problem solve through open-ended, hands-on design experiences. Using 3D solid modeling software, students create, modify, and test prior to building their solutions.
150 years ago the Class of 1872 was the first graduating class of Midland High School. This year, along with the Class of 2022, we are celebrating 150 years of Chemic Legacy! The roots of MHS go back to the 1872 Union High School, which educated local students until a boiler explosion destroyed the building in 1907. A new school was constructed the following year using a large donation from the local Dow Chemical Company. The institution was renamed Midland High School and their nickname was “Chemics.” We will arrive at the 2022 anniversary date during this mid-school year but the celebration starts now!

To help commemorate this special celebration, every Chemic staff and student received a blue t-shirt that is referred to as our “Chemic Legacy t-shirt.” This shirt is the work of several past and present Chemics that have a common vision of UNITY, TEAMWORK and CHEMIC PRIDE.

So why a Chemic Legacy shirt?

⇒ It is the hope that this shirt will become an integral part of the culture of Midland High School.
⇒ Chemics are part of something special. While many are part of teams, clubs, and other MHS organizations, we are all part of the CHEMIC FAMILY.
⇒ Each day students and staff are working towards leaving their LEGACY. When we wear this shirt, we honor all those that have walked these halls before us, making choices that help leave a positive legacy when we are gone.

At Midland High, we are surrounded daily by traditions that are woven into the walls of our school. “The Friday Message” dates back to Dan Shephard, principal of MHS during the mid ’80s, hence the reference to “keeping 20 cents in your pocket” — pay phones were used to call home in the 80’s!

Each principal has added to this message since Mr. Shephard, leaving their own unique legacy . . .

Each Senior from the Class of 2022 will be honored with their picture on the TV in EyeBall Alley every school day . . . Four different Chemic Seniors will be featured alphabetically. Also, each Senior will receive a locker sign with Chemic Legacy on it . . . Many other events are being planned for the 2022 graduation!

Long-time MHS teacher and coach, Mr. Chuck Trzcinski (1975-1997), coined the term “Chemic Pride.” While Coach “Trz” has been gone for almost 25 years, it is safe to say he left a legacy that still walks the halls of MHS!

This year, Chemics are being challenged to determine their legacy . . .
Jefferson Middle School
(989) 923-5873 <> website: jms.midlandps.org
Principal: Ms. Shannon Blasy

Northeast Middle School
(989) 923-5772 <> website: nms.midlandps.org
Principal: Mr. Dirk DeBoer

The 8th grade US History Jefferson Huskies in Ms. Pedelty and Ms. Torreano’s classrooms celebrated Constitution Day with a really fun Escape Room! Students had to complete different cyphers and decoders to find answers that would unlock a safe to save the US Constitution!

Northeast continues their tradition of honoring students who get caught doing something extraordinary. The students receive a ticket which could be drawn to be the VIP of the week!

6th grade science used microscopes to compare onion cells to cheek cells.

Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival celebration at Jefferson
Mandarin class students celebrated the Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival by watching an introduction video, gaining an appreciation of an ancient Chinese poem, tasting of moon cakes and chrysanthemum tea, and craft making.

Jefferson Calendar Reminders
⇒ October 22: 1st Marking Period Ends
⇒ November 2: No School (Professional Development for Staff)
⇒ November 4: Music & More
⇒ November 24: 1/2 Day for Students (Prof. Dev. For Staff in Afternoon)
⇒ November 25 & 26: No School (Thanksgiving Weekend)
⇒ December 22: 2nd Marking Period & 1st Semester Ends
⇒ December 22: 1/2 Day for Students (Teacher Collab. in Afternoon)
⇒ January 3: Classes Resume
Siebert Kindness Week Planned October 24-29, 2021

5th grade students from Katie Morden’s class met with students from around the county via ZOOM on September 22nd to discuss and plan for Kindness Week – October 24-29.

The Midland County Violence Prevention Partnership sponsored the event. Students heard from guest speakers, met with students from other elementary buildings and planned a week of activities including morning announcements, classroom activities, a school wide “I pledge to Be Kind” poster, as well as kindness themed books and videos for teachers and students!

Excavation has begun for our new playground structure for Siebert Bulldogs! Students and staff are all very excited to see it constructed over the next several weeks!

Siebert 1st Graders celebrated Midland Neighboring the week of September 27 by sharing their artistic talent in a bright, cheerful ‘Hello Neighbor’ sheet that brought a smile to their neighbor’s faces. Way to go, Bulldogs!

Woodcrest Third grade teachers organized a summer reading program for incoming 3rd graders. Every student received a bag of 3 books and a BINGO challenge sheet. If students completed the BINGO challenge board and returned the books and assignment by the end of the first week of school, they were entered to win one of four new bikes donated by a local trucking company, TDC Transport. Every student that participated received a small prize of a new ink pen and a sucker. The four winners of the new bikes were Maya Alvord of Mrs. Anderson’s class, Patti Wu of Mrs. Peavey’s class, Roman Johnston of Mrs. Metiva’s class, and Caleb Hamilton of Mrs. Arthur’s class.

In their Mandarin class recently, 1st Grade students learned a legend about the Mid-Autumn Festival and did a skit with props. 4th Grade students read a Chinese book, A Big Mooncake for Little Star by Lin Peisi, related to the Lunar Eclipse and did an experiment to see what the Lunar Eclipse looks like.

Woodcrest 2nd graders celebrated Midland Neighboring Week at the end of September by sharing their artistic abilities in a fun ‘Hello Neighbor’ sheet to leave on their neighbor’s porches. Way to go, Wolverines!
2021-22 MPS Preschool & Developmental Kindergarten Update

Here we are into October! Children have adjusted and we already see growth in learning, procedures, routines and learning how to do school. We are building relationships with adults and peers as well.

I want to be sure to THANK all of the people who donated to our T-shirt/Book endeavor. We feel so strongly that teaching our children to be KIND to ALL people is so important. We celebrate every Wednesday with “Kindness Wednesday” and, of course, all, children will have a Kindness T-shirt to wear. We will get some pictures out as soon as our t-shirts come in.

Thank you to the Islamic Society for the donation of multiracial crayons and the book, The Prouddest Blue and to Joy Jiao who donated copies of All Are Welcome. Both have helped to add to our library of books that help teach children to know “We all belong and Our Diversity is our Strength.”

Midland Public Schools High School Virtual Opportunities
PATHS Principal & Coordinator of Online Learning: Mr. Jeff Lauer
(989) 923-5084 <= lauerjm@midlandps.org

MPS Virtual Programs Designed for Students to Reach Graduating Goals

eLearning—MPS is proud to be able to meet the needs of high school students with specific needs through virtual programming. We realize last year was a struggle for many students and some lost credits were needed to recover for the students to get back on track for graduation. Our most successful and longest running program, eLearning, is in place to help these students. It allows students to work through courses at their own pace with classroom support. This program has a long history of success for student credit recovery.

PATHS—We are also continuing our PATHS (Personalized Academics Through High School) program to meet the needs of students who have not been successful in the traditional high school learning model. PATHS addresses obstacles a student may face to achieve success and has a goal of addressing students’ career and technical education (CTE) goals. The program is designed to take students from where they are to graduation and beyond. Each student has an individualized plan that may include full virtual or a blending of virtual and traditional classes based on each student’s goals.

Virtual Academy—Finally, we are aware that due to COVID, some MPS students with medical situations may require a short term virtual option. We continue to serve these students through the Virtual Academy.

DEI EMPHASIS AT MPS

MPS is actively working to enhance our culture and learning environment so every student and staff member feels safe and valued. We strive to create a sense of true belonging. This is important for overall wellbeing as well as academic growth and achievement.

The focus of our diversity, equity, and inclusion work aligns with our vision statement: Lead with respect, trust and courage. Ensure an equitable, collaborative and inclusive culture. Enable all to achieve success.

MPS has highly skilled teachers who care deeply about students. They are thoughtful and respectful in how they facilitate learning on important topics. Learning experiences throughout our schools provide opportunities for students to:

- be exposed to multiple perspectives and engage in productive dialogue and discourse
- grow as inquirers and develop skills to become open-minded, independent thinkers
- recognize our common humanity and become internationally minded citizens
- learn history that is thorough, accurate, fact-based, and aligned to state standards
- use resources that represent all identities and experiences of people
- learn that racism is wrong and that we must recognize, value, and respect the equal humanity and dignity of every person
- learn about race and racism “within the context of developmentally appropriate teaching about well-known parts of our country’s history. It is done not to make some children feel bad and others good, or in ways that denigrate or undermine the country, but rather to acknowledge the fullness and complexity of our history.” (excerpt quoted from Dr. Michael F. Rice, Ph.D., State Superintendent, during August 10, 2021, State Board of Education Meeting. Here is the link to Dr. Rice’s full statement: https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Race_and_Racism_August_2021_732288_7.pdf)

[Note: Midland Public Schools has received several inquiries regarding Critical Race Theory. It is important for our school community to know that Critical Race Theory is not part of the Midland Public Schools’ curriculum.]

As members of our school community, we ask you to share this accurate information about the important work happening in our district. This DEI FAQ document contains additional information: https://www.midlandps.org/MPS_DEI_FAQs

Midland Public Schools 2021-22

Board of Education:
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Phil Rausch, Vice President
John Hattfield Secretary
Jon Launderbach, Treasurer
Lynn Baker, Trustee
Braud Blasy, Trustee
Patrick Frazee, Trustee

Administration:
Superintendent:
Michael E. Sharrow
Associate Superintendents:
Brian Bruyn
Jeff Jaster
Penny Miller-Nelson
Greetings Midland Public Schools’ District Neighbors:

Even if you don’t have a child, grandchild, family member, neighbor, etc. who attends MPS today, Midland Public Schools is YOUR community’s public school district!

Midland Public Schools …

⇒ students, staff, families live in your neighborhood
⇒ may have educated your child once upon a time
⇒ has been a source of pride and educational excellence for the Midland community for many, many years!

As we all know, our world, nation, state, community and school district are living through a very different time than we ever have in our lifetime. This year’s State of the District is a glimpse into MPS through a COVID lens. Our K-6 Grade students are wearing masks inside the schools and 7-12 Grade students are strongly encouraged to mask-up. We are COVID testing students and staff who are close contacts to a positive-tested individual on a daily basis. We are sanitizing our schools and buses, keeping our elementary students in pods as much as possible to limit COVID spread, and the MPS COVID protocol list goes on and on. However, without a doubt, we are most happy to take these precautions because our 7,600+ MPS students are in our schools with face-to-face instruction/learning happening each and every school day.

Please allow us to share some recent MPS successes and points of pride in these four pages—our annual “State of the (Midland PS) District.” 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

Midland Public Schools in our COVID World

Back in the winter of 2020, I don’t think any of us could have predicted how each of our lives would be affected in the coming couple of years by something called COVID. Without a doubt, COVID has made our District stretch, grow and think ‘outside of the box’ in so many ways to keep students moving forward in their learning and helping them to ‘stay the course’ to meet THEIR long-term educational & career goals.

Here are just a few ways Midland Public Schools has risen to the COVID challenges for our students!

⇒ Steadfast commitment to face-to-face learning
  ⇒ in 2020-21, Midland PS students spent more time in F2F learning than most other Michigan districts
⇒ District/Staff are flexible, responsive, adaptable
⇒ This past summer MPS hosted high-quality learning programs for over 600 students across grades K-12 who needed additional support
⇒ MPS continued steadfastness to COVID proven, high-quality safety protocols
⇒ Social Emotional Learning & Multi-Tiered Systems of Support commitment/emphasis and added SEL & MTSS resources as our District supports the whole child
STATE OF THE DISTRICT

Midland Public Schools
Inspiring Excellence

Some Exciting 2021-22 MPS Points of Pride!

MPS 2022
Niche Rankings
Midland PS District overall
Niche Grade: A

⇒ MPS ranks 845/10,772 = top 8% of Best School Districts in AMERICA
⇒ MPS ranks 39/556 = top 7% of Best School Districts in MICHIGAN

Best Public High Schools in Michigan
⇒ HH Dow High: 29/783 = top 4%
⇒ Midland High: 75/783 = top 10%

Best Public Middle Schools in Michigan
⇒ Jefferson Middle: 68/924: 7%
⇒ Northeast Middle: 99/924 = top 11%

#1 Best Public High School in Saginaw Area: HH Dow High
#1 Best Public Middle School in Saginaw Area: Jefferson Middle

Want to see for yourself? Go to www.niche.com for lots more info.

All Six MPS’ Elementary Schools are IB World Schools!

As an International Baccalaureate (IB) World School, it is a requirement that each school undertakes a year-long evaluation process every five years addressing all aspects of the Primary Years Programme (PYP).

During this period of evaluation that several MPS elementary schools underwent during the 2020-21 school year, evidence was sought from both internal and external stakeholders to verify that the school was meeting all the requirements of the programme. The IB Evaluation process was composed of a Self-Study, the school’s IB Action Plan, as well as an examination of the school’s commitment to follow the IB Standards and Practices for the Primary Years Programme (PYP). The final stage of the evaluation process involved evaluators from the International Baccalaureate virtually visiting each of our elementary schools. By November 2021, all six Midland PS elementary schools will have undergone their unique evaluation process.

Our six MPS elementary schools make up 23% of the 26 IB PYP public elementary schools in the State of Michigan. WOW!!!

HH Dow High & Midland High Schools were awarded College Success Award--Gold by GreatSchools.org!

Now in its fourth year, the GreatSchools College Success Award recognizes and celebrates public high schools across the country that excel at helping students enroll and succeed in college. To celebrate schools with a multi-year track record of postsecondary success, GreatSchools also added an additional, elevated level of distinction: the College Success Award -- Gold. In 2021, a total of 1,770 schools from 26 states satisfied the College Success Award – Gold criteria.

Want to check out these findings? www.greatschools.org/gk/csa-winners/

US News & World Report 2021 Best High Schools Ranking

HH Dow High
⇒ was ranked 47 out of 1149, ranking DHS in the top 4% of high schools in Michigan.
⇒ was ranked 1,576 out of 23,553 in National Rankings, making DHS in the top 7% of high schools in the United States.

Midland High
⇒ was ranked 108 out of 1149 high schools, ranking MHS in the top 9% of high schools in Michigan.
⇒ was ranked 3,040 out of 23,553, ranking MHS in the top 13% of high schools in the country.

Want to check out the 2021 rankings? Here is the link:
https://www.usnews.com/education/best-high-schools/search
Midland Public Schools' 2021 Student Academic Performance —

We all know that the past couple of years have been tough for many reasons. One such reason we’ve been hearing a lot about in the media is “learning loss” because of having to veer into virtual learning in March of 2020 and many students nationwide remained in virtual learning for the 2020-21 school year. As you can see from the information below, MPS students out-performed their grade level peers in this past spring’s State/National assessments in every single testing category! That is not to say that all of our students did as well as they would have if COVID would not have come into being, but overall Midland PS students continue to outpace their peers.

### Spring 2021 M-STEP / PSAT / MME Test Results

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*Note: Grade 8, 9 and 10 take PSAT for ELA and Math scores; Grade 11 takes SAT*

### 2021 International Baccalaureate (IB) Assessment Results

IB courses and testing offer students an opportunity to earn college credit and advanced placement at most post-secondary institutions.

Taking IB courses also demonstrates to college admissions officers that students have sought out a rigorous curricular pathway. Each IB exam is scored using a seven-point scale. Scores from 4 to 7 are considered satisfactory to excellent.

During the 2020-2021 school year, 205 MPS students took 331 IB exams in 24 subject areas. 97% of the examinations taken by MPS students received a score of 4 or higher.

27 MPS students earned the full IB Diploma.

### 2021 Advanced Placement (AP) Assessment Results

AP courses and testing offer students an opportunity to earn college credit and advanced placement at most post-secondary institutions. Each AP exam is scored using a five-point scale. Scores from 3 to 5 are considered qualified to extremely well qualified.

During the 2020-2021 school year, 247 MPS students took 453 Advanced Placement exams in 25 subject areas. 85% of the MPS students taking an AP exam achieved a qualified score of 3 or higher. This compares to 65% amongst Michigan schools and 60% globally. 77 MPS students achieved the distinction of being named an AP Scholar, meaning that they earned a score of 3 or higher on a minimum of 3 AP subject area assessments.
Here are some more very important MPS NUMBERS …

Midland PS is grateful for and is ever mindful of being fiscally responsible with taxpayer dollars! As you can see from this table, 80.4% of General Fund Expenditures are earmarked to be spent in direct instruction/support for MPS students during this school year!

The MPS Fund Balance is there to help the District with cash flow and unexpected purchases and downturns in funding. As you can see, we are very thankful we were able to “shore up” the MPS Fund Balance from 2017-2020 because with the extra costs due to COVID during the 2020/21 & 2021/22 school years, it is coming in very handy!