

OUR SCHOOLS

CONNECT WITH US:

MPSConnect:

<http://www.midlandps.org/mps-connect>

MPS Connections Podcasts:

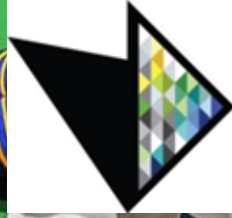
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@MidlandPS

October 2022 <> Volume 10, Issue 2



Midland Public Schools
Inspiring Excellence

Did you know?

MPS Enrollment has been stable and slightly increased over the past 5 years?

MPS Kindergarten enrollment for the 22-23 school year is our largest in over a decade?

MPS receives over 500 School of Choice students throughout our region?

MPS Schools are the Schools of Choice!
Parents Choose MPS Schools!

MPS STEM Endorsement

The Michigan STEM Endorsement is awarded to high school graduates who complete at least six credits in mathematics, at least six credits in science, at least a half credit featuring significant coursework involving technology, and at least a half credit featuring significant coursework involving engineering in their grades 7-12 schooling. The endorsement is intended to recruit students to high-skill, high-wage jobs in Michigan. From the MPS graduating class of 2022, 90 students earned this state endorsement.

MPS By the Numbers:

11 MPS Schools

46 Career & Technical Education (CTE) courses offered at the high school level

10 middle school sports students can join

22 high school math courses students can choose

16 high school science courses students can choose

24 English/language arts courses students can choose

14 high school world language courses students can choose

ADAMS ELEMENTARY

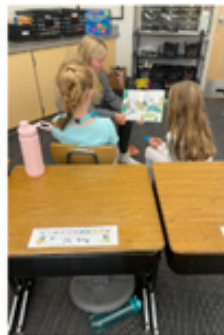
(989) 923-6037 <> WEBSITE: ADE.MIDLANDPS.ORG

PRINCIPAL: MR. J. SCOTT COCHRAN



Adams Elementary Art Installation

Each year, our Art teacher Mrs. Dulude leads our students in a collaborative Art project. This year's work of art was inspired by the Bruno Mars song Count on Me. Each grade listened to the song, brainstormed how to illustrate the lyrics, and created! Each Adams student made a small part of the huge mural that is in the hallway outside our office. Individually, we create beautiful pieces; together, we create amazing art and make the world a better place!



Dow HS Volleyball Team Reads with Adams 2nd Grade

It was great to see members of the Dow HS Volleyball team reading with our 2nd grade students earlier this year. As part of their Homecoming festivities the student-athletes spent time with our students, modeled good reading strategies, and mentored our 2nd graders. Thank you to Ms. Taylor, Adams 2nd grade teacher and Dow HS Volleyball coach, for setting up this partnership. By the way, did you know that Adams has the most accomplished volleyball crew in the district? It's true--along with Ms. Taylor coaching at Dow HS, Mrs. Dulude and Ms. Jones coach the Northeast MS volleyball team, and Mrs. Grillo was a volleyball captain at Central Michigan University. Bump, set, spike--win!

Scan Me with your phone for BONUS content!



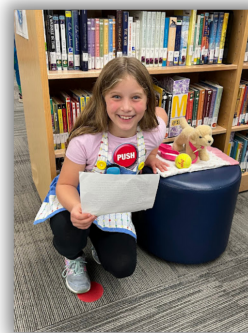
Adams 5th Graders Learn at Bay City State Park

Our 5th graders had a great field trip to the Bay City State Park. Prior to their trip they learned from park rangers here at school, and then applied their knowledge in a natural setting at the park. No amount of wet weather could dampen the spirits of our students! Great science learning, and lots of fun, too. Special thanks go out to the Bay City State Park staff and our 5th grade teachers: Mrs. Capua, Ms. Jones, and Mrs. Lipovsky.

CENTRAL PARK ELEMENTARY

(989) 923-6836 <> WEBSITE: CPE.MIDLANDPS.ORG

PRINCIPAL: MS. KARA STARK



CPE Color Run

The CPE staff, students, and families had a blast at the CPE Color Run! Thank you to our PTO for putting together such a fun event to support our school!

Congratulations to the September CPE Students of the Month!

The Learner Profile attribute for the month of September was Caring. Caring students show empathy, compassion and respect for others. They are committed to service and act to make a positive difference in the lives of others and the world around us. Caring people also demonstrate appreciation. They are grateful for the people and the things that they have in life.

Scan Me with your phone for BONUS content!



A The staff and students at CPE had the opportunity to enjoy The Lion Heart Experience where an inspirational and powerful message about identity was shared through song and dance.

CHESTNUT HILL

(989) 923-6634 <> WEBSITE: CHE.MIDLANDPS.ORG

PRINCIPAL: MS. TRACY RENFRO



Parent Katrina Bucuo started a garden at CHE over the summer. She is planning to add a new section this fall and will start involving students in the planting and maintenance.



A big thank you to the Chestnut Hill PTO and Previous Boy Scout Pack #3791 for purchasing the CHE decals for our rooms without window coverings. This provides relief from the sun and limits the outside visibility.



5th grade students getting instruction on the use of the new Sensory Path. Students practiced using the path and learned it is available for those in need of sensory breaks throughout the school day.

NOVEMBER 3½ DAY OF SCHOOL WITH DISMISSAL AT 11:51 A.M.
PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES FROM 1-4 AND 5-8
(PLEASE BE SURE YOU HAVE SCHEDULED A TIME TO MEET WITH YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER)

NOVEMBER 8 NO SCHOOL (PROFESSIONAL DEV. FOR STAFF)
NOVEMBER 24-25 NO SCHOOL-THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY
DECEMBER 1 PTO HOLIDAY SHOPPE 5-7 PM IN THE GYM
DECEMBER 21 ½ DAY OF SCHOOL WITH DISMISSAL AT 11:51 A.M.
DEC 22-JAN 2 NO SCHOOL-CHRISTMAS VACATION
JANUARY 3 SCHOOL RESUMES
JANUARY 16 NO SCHOOL (PROFESSIONAL DEV. FOR STAFF)

PLYMOUTH ELEMENTARY

(989) 923-7616 <> WEBSITE: PME.MIDLANDPS.ORG

PRINCIPAL: MS. MARGARET DOAN



Welcome Back Pioneers!
To welcome our students back, Plymouth staff was excited to start the year with an all-school assembly. This is the first assembly that students have been able to attend in the last two years. Everyone was excited as we gathered to review our school-wide Essential Agreements! Our new music teacher, Ms. Jones, took this opportunity for Pioneers to practice our Plymouth school song together. We look forward to more opportunities to bring everyone together this year!



Staying active
Plymouth students and staff understand the importance of staying active and balancing events in their life. This summer, fifth grade students participated in the Gus Macker tournament held in downtown Midland. The boys had a great time and represented Plymouth well! It was also great to see our Student Resource Officer, Officer Hawkins, out in the community.



Fourth and fifth graders had the opportunity to run in the Fun Run at Stratford Park. It was a beautiful day for our students to participate in this 1 mile run! Thank you to MPS gym teachers for collaborating to make this happen!

Join the PTO!

A great way to stay involved with events and Plymouth information is to attend PTO meetings. The PTO meets on the second Monday of every month in the Plymouth Elementary media center. This year, PTO is kicking off the year with a school dance and book fair in November!



To start the year off well, Plymouth teachers participated in the Great Lake Loons Pennant Race. This was a great way to connect as a staff and put health as a priority!

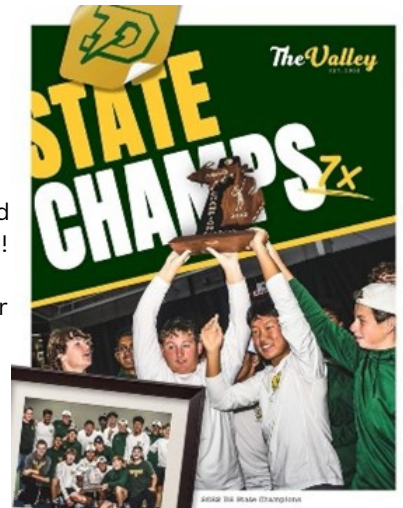


The boys SVL tennis team won its 17th consecutive SVL tournament. This is Dow's 44th tournament championship in the last 56 years.

Winning, without dropping a set, for Dow were Austin King, Aaron Li, Logan Yu, Nimai Patel, Thomas Ladwein, Bobo Qiu, Roofy Elsadaany, Aiden Tanis, Shubhan Nagarkar, Vishagan Karthikeyan, Konnor Janeczko and Dominic Griffin.

Dow varsity tennis won its 14th straight regional by sweeping each flight and earning a perfect score for the second straight year.

Regional champions for Dow are Austin King (who was also named MVP of the SVL for the second straight year), Aaron Li, Logan Yu, Nimai Patel, Thomas Ladwein, Bobo Qiu, Roofy Elsadaany, Aiden Tanis, Vishagan Karthikeyan, Shubhan Nagarkar, Dominic Griffin, and Konnor Janeczko. Dow next plays in the state competition next weekend October 14th and 15th AT HOME!!! The tournament will be held at the tennis center and admission is free. Come support the team as they go for their seventh state championship in the last 14 years!!!



The H.H. Dow Chargers Boys Tennis Team defended 'Home Court' over the weekend to claim their 7th State Title in School History, their first since 2016, and all under Head Coach Terry Schwartzkopf. Every Flight scored points to contribute to this State Championship!

Singles & Doubles State Winners:

- Aaron Li took home the Singles Win Flight 2
- Niami Patel in Flight 4
- Doubles Team of Roofy Elsaadany and Aiden Tanis in Flight 2

The Dow High girls golf team won their Regional Championship with a team score of 363. Leading the way for the Chargers and winning top medalist was Sophia Lee, who shot a 79. Also, helping the Chargers to victory were Abby Wilson who shot a 90, Kylie Keefer and Savannah Reitz with a 97, and Joline Che with a 98. Great Job ladies!! The girls will compete for a State Championship at Forest Akers West on October 14th & 15th.

The Lady Charger Golfers took 15th at States.

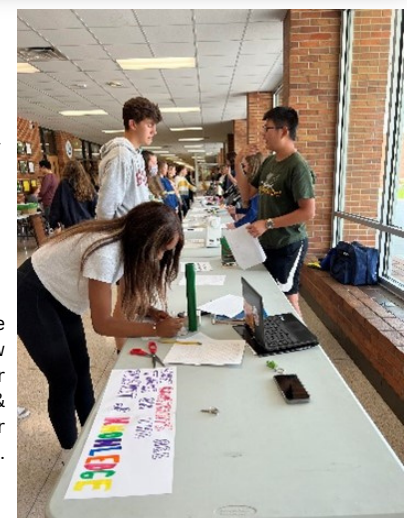


On Saturday, October 15, the Dow High Orchestras traveled to the Max M. and Marjorie Fisher Music Center in Detroit to watch the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. This is the students' first field trip to the Detroit Symphony Orchestra since everything shut down for Covid-19. They were able to watch one of the best orchestras in the country perform music by Prokofiev and Mozart. The performance also featured world-renowned cello soloist Kian Soltani who performed the Haydn Cello Concerto and a personal composition, Persian Fire Dance.

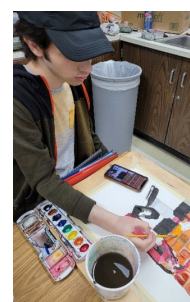
(The attached photos feature the group of approximately 70 DHS Orchestra students and the DSO on stage at the Max M and Marjorie Fisher Music Center.)



Paige Dolph & Principal Davis discuss Paige's homemade sweater at the TOK Exhibition.



Students lined the front hall at Dow High to share their IB TOK Exhibition & work with other students.



Dr. Francisco's advanced 2D students working in watercolor!

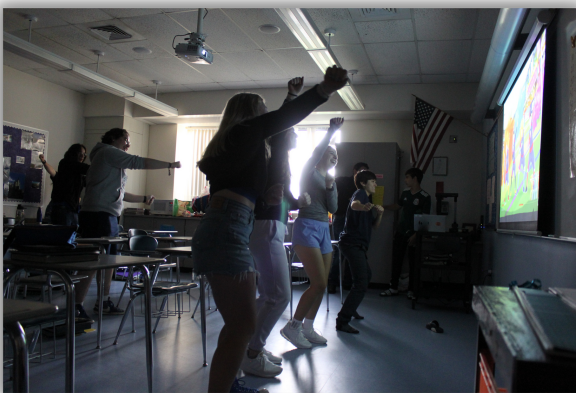


Midland High School hosted its 3rd annual Victory Day celebration on Monday, September 12, at the Midland Community Stadium. The day was established to allow students with different abilities the opportunity to participate in a football gameday experience. Scores of Chemics turned out for an afternoon of football, festivities, and fun. The students were able to throw the football around, participate in practice drills, cheer with the Chemic Pompon & Cheer teams, and even had the opportunity to catch a pass or run the ball into the end zone for a touchdown! The Midland High Band was there as well to help cheer everyone on. The Chemic Victory Day is modeled after a program started in Trenton, Michigan in 2010. Since then dozens of Victory Days have sprouted around the country. This special event includes everyone in the joys of participating in a high school football game and is meaningful for all involved.

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BONUS content!



MHS Sports Hall of Fame Class of 2022



On September 16, Ana Geib's class celebrated Mexico's Independence Day, kicking off Hispanic Heritage Month! Mexico's declaration of independence from Spain was in 1810. People of Mexican heritage all over the world mark the event in their country's history when a priest in the village of Dolores rang his church bell and delivered a powerful speech that set the War of Independence from Spain in motion. Even the President of Mexico participates by ringing that same bell – now over 200 years old – live on TV the night before the big celebration. Ms. Geib's students celebrated by eating, dancing and listening to one of their classmates, a foreign exchange student from Mexico, give a presentation about his home.



JEFFERSON MIDDLE SCHOOL

(989) 923-5873 <> WEBSITE: JMS.MIDLANDPS.ORG

PRINCIPAL: MS. SHANNON BLASY



Jefferson had their first pep assembly on October 12, 2022. We loved getting all the staff and students together to root for our Jefferson Football team.



In mid October, Jefferson CSI 6th graders took on the role of medical professional trainees by testing their skills with community "patients". Students learned about vital signs and the importance of each with a person's health. Eighteen brave community members participated and allowed the students to gather health data and interpret the results. Students check blood pressures, heart rate/ pulse, temperature, respiration and oxygen saturation using tools and techniques that were practiced on themselves earlier. Everyone was given a clean bill of health!



The students of Jefferson Middle School' Mandarin Class 2A had a special class in. Dr. Joe Chai introduced five Chinese musical instruments and gave a small concert with Chinese flute and Guzheng. He also displayed his traditional clothing. Dr. Chai is from Tujia group, one of China's ethnic minorities. After the demonstration, the students had a hands-on experience by touching and practicing five Chinese musical instruments. The students enjoyed the lecture very much because they not only reviewed the names of the Chinese musical instruments they had learned, but also learned two new Chinese musical instruments. The lively and beautiful music performance also inspired students to explore Chinese Culture.

NORTHEAST MIDDLE SCHOOL

(989) 923-5772 <> WEBSITE: NMS.MIDLANDPS.ORG

PRINCIPAL: MR. DIRK DEBOER



Check out these students and teachers rocking their Viking Spirit! Participation was overwhelming as the school geared up for their big game against the Jefferson Huskies.

SPRIT WEEK



Every Friday, students who are nominated through the week as being a VIP (Very Important Viking) have a chance to have their name picked by Mr. DeBoer and Mr. Seybert as acknowledgement of their act of kindness. Each student who gets their name drawn comes to the office for a treat and then have their picture taken.

VIP Friday



The annual Northeast tailgate was held Wednesday, October 19. Students and staff enjoyed hot dogs, chips, and drinks. Sweet Treats Ice Cream truck was on site offering ice cream treats. The Northeast Band also joined in the fun!

7TH GRADE FOOTBALL



Great job to the 7th grade football team in their final game of the season winning 24-10! Gordy Freed led the way with the ball on offense running for 150 yards and 3 touchdowns. Great job to all our Vikings!

SIEBERT ELEMENTARY

(989) 923-7835 <> WEBSITE: SBE.MIDLANDPS.ORG

PRINCIPAL: MR. PAUL SCHROLL



WOODCREST ELEMENTARY

(989) 923-7940 <> WEBSITE: WCE.MIDLANDPS.ORG

PRINCIPAL: MR. JEFF PENNEX



September is Deaf Awareness Month. Ms. Crump is an interpreter for the deaf and is currently at Siebert. She created an informative and interactive bulletin board. Students could leave questions for her to answer. She even crafted bookmarks with the sign language alphabet on them. As a culminating activity, Ms. Crump invited her husband to present. He signed and Ms. Kim interpreted for him. He shared his experience of what it is like to be deaf. Some highlights from his presentation included that people in different regions sign a bit differently. These are known as accents, just like in speaking. His sense of sight is strong as he relies on his eyes to catch information. At home, family members stomp their feet to get his attention. He can feel the vibrations. He shared that he uses texting to communicate with coworkers, doctors, and non-signing individuals. He was not born deaf nor are his children deaf. However, they sign to communicate with him. In addition to his positive outlook, Mr. Crump shared some of his successes. He is an accomplished welder, an artist and former pro-bowler! He loves bowling because of the pin action, he can feel the vibrations on the wooden floor, and it is so visual. The children were on the edge of their seats as he presented. He welcomed every question. Thank you to Mr. and Ms. Crump for giving Siebert Bulldogs this valuable experience.



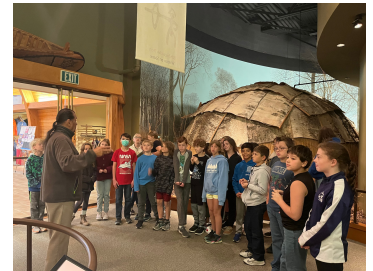
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Danielle Premo MSN, RN, Nursing Clinical Coordinator for Saginaw Valley State University shared, I am often asked, 'Why do you want your nursing students in a school?' Schools offer the perfect opportunity for our students to learn about growth and development, health promotion, health literacy and community education—which are all vital concepts for our students to understand. Immersing our nursing students in the education system to learn from seasoned educators is one great way to prepare them to deliver health education to kids of all ages and stages! We have also enjoyed the opportunity to work alongside school nurse, Lindsay Sanford, who has taught our students about the vital direct role that nurses play in the education system. We can't thank Principal Schroll and the Siebert staff enough for their longstanding dedication to our nursing student's education!



Woodcrest fifth graders are currently studying the native peoples of the United States. To further their inquiry, they had the opportunity to visit the Zibwing Cultural Center in Mount Pleasant at which they learned more about the Native Americans of the Eastern Woodlands and their culture. The fifth graders went on a guided tour of the museum, got to go inside a Wigwam, learned a collection of words in the native Anishinaabe language, handled Native American artifacts, made a dreamcatcher, and saw two traditional Native American dances during this meaningful educational field trip.





Our DK class made glitter bottles in Mrs. Sanel's classroom. This is an activity that we completed as part of our Mind, Body, Grow program. The students were taught that the glitter represents our thoughts. When we get angry or upset or frustrated, we shake the bottle and we notice that our thoughts are getting swirled around, and we aren't able to think clearly. The students are then told to carefully focus on the glitter. Watch as it settles to the bottom. As they watch the glitter settle, so does their mind. As the glitter returns to the bottom of the jar, they feel more calm and able to think more clearly. This is such a great tool for them to keep in their room or somewhere at home and use it as needed when they find themselves having some strong emotions.



Midland Public Schools continues to provide virtual options for students who need it. Whether it is eLearning for students who are recovering credits or extending their course choices, or Virtual Academy for students who have a medical need, or PATHS, Personalized Academics Through High School, Midland Public Schools works with Imagine Edgenuity and Michigan Virtual to provide virtual options for students. This semester, we are serving about 70 students in the Virtual Academy, another 70 students through the PATHS program, and over 300 students through our eLearning program. In addition, this year, with Mr. Lauer not only leading the virtual programs, but also serving as the principal for the Monarch Academy and Juvenile Care Center educational programs, we have also started a Transitions program for students leaving the JCC for their primary high schools. We realize that going from the tightly supervised programs at the JCC into the full high school experience can be a challenge for some and can lead to students returning to the JCC. In a collaboration between JCC staff and MPS staff, we have created a program that slowly reintroduces these students into the high school social atmosphere while maintaining virtual coursework and then begins to integrate traditional high school courses. In our development phase last year, we found this to be effective for most students. So far this year, we are finding continued student growth in this model! We are proud of our ability to meet the wide range of student needs with the flexibility of virtual learning!

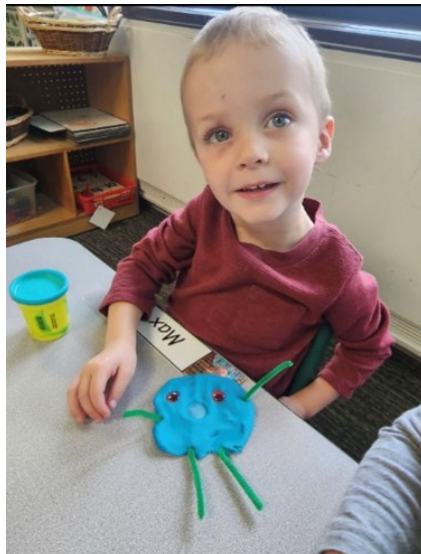


Ms Reinke and Ms. McKenzie's class (3's) is counting, using playdoh to develop fine motor muscles, tweezers for fine motor development, using objects to sort. We are learning all about school and how to be a learner.

International Baccalaureate (IB) Assessment Results

IB courses and assessments offer students not only an amazing learning experience but also the opportunity to earn college credit and advanced placement at most post-secondary institutions. Taking an IB course 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 and are typically worthy of college credit.

During the 2021-2022 school year 217 MPS students took 383 IB exams in 22 subject areas. 20 students earned the full IB Diploma. These students completed coursework and received qualifying assessment scores in six IB subjects. The diploma recipients were also required to complete an Extended Essay, C.A.S. project (service based), and work in a course titled Theory of Knowledge. Since the inception of the IB Diploma Programme in MPS, 276 students have earned the full IB Diploma.



Based around the central idea, "Nature helps people learn about the world", some of our youngest learners at the Pre-Primary Center in Mrs. DeShais' class were invited to explore some of the beauty that autumn brings. Inspired by the students' observation of the current season and their environment, students used magnifying glasses and tweezers to examine giant sunflowers and their seeds; inspected the similarities and differences of leaves at the light table including size, shape, color, and texture; used their imagination to create "pies" and other delicious concoctions using oatmeal, apple chips, paper strips and cooking utensils at the sensory table; and others created nature-inspired artwork to add to the classroom gallery. Students rated the new play-based inquiry stations 5/5! We can't wait to see where student inquiries will lead the class next!



State of the District October 2022

Innovative Programming for all:

- All MPS Elementary Schools are International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme and Project Lead the Way certified schools
- The Pre-Primary Center at Carpenter Street School serves over 120 students Pre-K through Young 5's and continues to grow
- PATHS- Alternative Diploma Program and Virtual Courses
- ALPS - Advanced Learning Program for Students (Grades 1-5)
- World Language Courses (Mandarin, Spanish, German, French)
- 82 Clubs/Organizations offered at MPS High Schools
- 45 Athletic Teams offered in the District
- 15 Art/Music Courses offered at MPS High Schools
- Robotics Teams at all 10 schools
- Robotics Center
- Early Middle College Program

School Safety and Student Wellbeing:

- Single Point Secured Entrances
- High-tech Video Surveillance
- RAPTOR Alert Communication System
- Emergency Operations Plan
- AI Weapons Detection Systems
- ALICE Protocols and Training
- School Resource Officers (4)
- Student Support Specialists
- (8) Safety Drills performed regularly
- Door Boot System at all buildings for added security

Technology:

- Student Devices 1:1
- Canvas Learning Platform
- Classroom Video and Audio Projection

State of the District October 2022

Communication and Transparency:

- Weekly Superintendent Communique delivered to 22,000 email addresses
- MPS Connections Podcasts
- MPS YouTube
- MPS Board of Education agenda, Meetings live-streamed and available on YouTube
- MPS Connect immediate access to Superintendent
- Parent Information Committee
- Transparency Section on MPS Website
- MPS App
- MPS Policies available on the Website
- Electronic Reader Board Signage at each school building

Millage Rate and Bonding:

- MPS 2.95 School Improvement Millage Rate is the lowest in our region
- Bonding program has been upgrading facilities, technology, and busing for nearly a decade

Employee Relations:

- MPS Salary and Compensation exceeds other school districts
- Generous Salary Increases
- All Collective Bargaining Agreements settled and ahead of schedule
- No Grievances from Affiliated Bargaining Units

State of the District October 2022

2022 Niche Ratings:

- #845 of 10,772 Best School Districts in America - Niche 2022
 - #33 of 562 Districts with the Best Teachers in Michigan - Niche 2022
 - #39 of 556 Best School Districts in Michigan - Niche 2022
 - #52 of 552 Best Places to Teach in Michigan - Niche 2022
 - #68 of 578 Safest School Districts in Michigan - Niche 2022
 - #74 of 571 Best School Districts for Athletes in Michigan - Niche 2022
 - #1 of 22 Best School Districts in Saginaw Area - Niche 2022
 - #1 of 21 Best Places to Teach in Saginaw Area - Niche 2022
 - #2 of 22 Districts with the Best Teachers in the Saginaw Area - Niche 2022
 - #3 safest School Districts in Saginaw Area - Niche 2022
 - #5 of 22 Best School Districts for Athletes in Saginaw Area - Niche 2022
 - #1 of 5 Best School Districts in Midland County - Niche 2022
 - #2 of 5 Safest School Districts in Midland County - Niche 2022
- A - Overall Niche Grade 2022



NICHE®

State of the District October 2022

Midland Public Schools continues to provide exceptional learning experiences for students and our results show that we continue to be one of the premier schools in our region and state. The Spring 2022 M-STEP, MME, and PSAT results show that MPS students continue to achieve at levels well above the state average in all grades and subjects.

ELEMENTARY

	Gr 3	Gr 4	Gr 5
ELA			
District	53%	58%	55%
State	42%	43%	43%
% over state avg.	12%	15%	12%
Mathematics			
District	58%	56%	43%
State	42%	37%	30%
% over state avg.	16%	20%	13%
Science			
District			56%
State			38%
% over state avg.			18%
Social Studies			
District			28%
State			16%
% over state avg.			12%

MIDDLE SCHOOL

	Gr 6	Gr 7	Gr 8
ELA			
District	58%	58%	74%
State	38%	38%	60%
% over state avg.	21%	21%	15%
Mathematics			
District	44%	50%	55%
State	28%	30%	36%
% over state avg.	16%	20%	19%
Science			
District			35%
State			23%
% over state avg.			12%
Social Studies			
District			41%
State			26%
% over state avg.			14%

HIGH SCHOOL

	Gr 9	Gr 10	Gr 11
ELA			
District	78%	74%	75%
State	59%	57%	52%
% over state avg.	19%	18%	23%
Mathematics			
District	59%	52%	53%
State	40%	32%	30%
% over state avg.	20%	20%	23%
Science			
District			44%
State			38%
% over state avg.			6%
Social Studies			
District			60%
State			36%
% over state avg.			25%

According to the Michigan Department of Education growth metric, 71% of MPS students showed average or above average student growth in English Language Arts and 66% in math in 2022.

