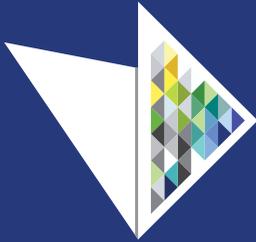
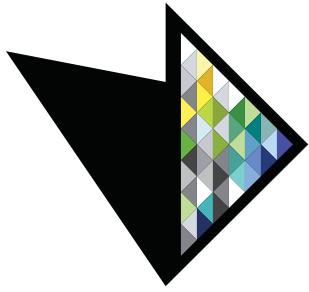


Our Schools



Midland
Public Schools



Midland Public Schools

Inspiring Excellence

Community's needs keep MPS focused on excellence

It's hard to get to the top and even harder to stay there, a reality that serves as a strong motivator for the folks at Midland Public Schools.

"We can't take anything for granted," said Interim Superintendent Penny Miller-Nelson. "The people who make our district great – from bus drivers to teachers and building support staff to coaches and many more people along the way – we take pride in how well we serve the community, and we understand how quickly we can sink into mediocrity if we take our eyes off our goal."

A chorus of community voices helps keep MPS, which consists of 11 schools, cognizant of what's at stake.

"There is extensive data to show that, at

its very core, education is an investment. Public education serves as a cornerstone of individual and community success," said United Way of Midland County President & CEO Holly Miller. "Midland Public Schools does an amazing job combining academic rigor with compassion to ensure every child has an opportunity to not just survive, but to thrive. Without that excellence, it would change the long-term outcome of our families, as well as the employees who are the workforce of tomorrow."

Developing that workforce becomes more complicated all the time as technology, industry and the workforce evolve.

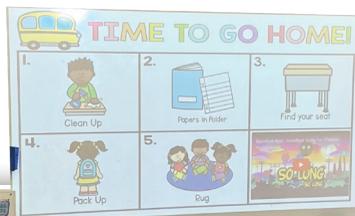
"We have some wonderful legacy businesses that want to grow and attract talent, which is great, and at the same time we are working hard to diversify our local economy," said Midland Business Alliance President & CEO Tony Stamas. "The number one issue for businesses today is talent. Finding the people. Keeping the people. Making sure they have the right skill sets. When deciding where to invest, right at the top of any company's list is the quality of the schools. Midland Public Schools continues to be an outstanding school district, not just in the state, but in the entire country. That makes Midland a community of choice."

According to Niche, an online resource focused on connecting students with colleges, **MPS ranks 845 of 10,772 Best School Districts in America, and 39 of 556 Best School Districts in Michigan.** These rankings

are calculated using dozens of public data sets and millions of reviews from students, parents and residents.

In addition to strengthening the local economy, MPS is the third largest employer in Midland and is an excellent training ground for any type of student, whether on an academic path or one looking to pursue skilled trades.

"I'm in an industry (construction) that relies on training for hands-on work that people accomplish in the field, and the workers' academic capacity and intellectual development are very important," said Three Rivers Corporation President Jon Lynch. "If you don't have the workforce that's required to take on any given project, you have to bring that labor in from out of town, and any time you do that there's an exponential cost increase."





Exposure to real-world jobs and the cutting-edge skills needed to do them well.

“Folks who don’t have kids in school anymore sometimes lose sight of the fact that, at some point, they are going to want a skilled plumber or a skilled mechanic to be at their disposal. When they make that call, they are going to be glad there was a local educational system that prepared those students well,” Lynch said.

That’s why MPS works extensively with local companies in a variety of fields to develop paid work experiences that give students

exposure to real-world jobs and the cutting-edge skills needed to do them well. One example is healthcare staffing, where virtually every community in America struggles to maintain employees in the face of shifting demographic trends.

“Midland Public Schools is an advocate for careers in the STEM fields, and MyMichigan Health is proud to be a partner in this endeavor,” said MyMichigan Health President & CEO Dr. Lydia Watson. “Through encouraging students to

participate in co-op experiences and student job shadows, MyMichigan Health welcomes hundreds of students from the Midland Public Schools System to its campus each year, introducing them to the many careers available in the field of medicine.”

“As our workforce ages, we are confronted with the reality that our local community is also aging,” Dr. Watson said. “As our community ages, its medical needs will necessarily grow. Without qualified medical professionals within our own community, our neighbors will have to leave their local community to address their health needs, sometimes traveling long distances to meet

with a specialist. MyMichigan Health believes that everyone should have access to quality health care close to home. As more people make the decision to age-in-place, it becomes even more important that advanced medical care be available in our local community.”

With all this in mind, MPS leaders are determined to stay on top.

“We’re not going to let our district’s excellence, which has taken so long to build, ever slip away,” Miller-Nelson said. “It drives us to foster an equitable, collaborative and inclusive culture where all who work, learn and partner with MPS achieve success.”



Work-Based Learning Experiences

There are typically **60 paid work experiences** available each school year. MPS works with 80 business partners to make this program a success.

Industries:

Medical office/Hospital, Marketing, IT, Credit Union, Automotive, Daycare/Education, Corporate, Law, Veterinary, Construction, Retail, Engineering, Research & Development, Welding

Performance data tells the story

School districts follow metrics to assess many objective measurements that determine their relative performance. In virtually every case, those metrics reflect well on Midland.

“If you look at any metric of how schools are measured, Midland Public Schools is at or near the top,” said Legacy Center for Community Success Founder and President Emeritus Richard Dolinski.

For instance, results of the spring 2023 tests to gauge student performance, the M-STEP, MME and PSAT, showed that MPS students achieved at levels well above state averages in all grades and subjects.

2023 M-STEP District/State Comparison									
	ELEMENTARY			MIDDLE SCHOOL			HIGH SCHOOL		
	Gr 3	Gr 4	Gr 5	Gr 6	Gr 7	Gr 8	Gr 9	Gr 10	Gr 11
ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS									
District	48%	58%	57%	59%	60%	78%	75%	77%	72%
State	41%	44%	44%	38%	37%	60%	59%	57%	52%
% points over state average	7%	14%	13%	21%	23%	18%	16%	20%	20%
MATHEMATICS									
District	56%	59%	47%	43%	53%	60%	63%	53%	54%
State	43%	39%	32%	30%	31%	36%	41%	32%	30%
% points over state average	13%	20%	15%	13%	22%	24%	22%	21%	24%
SCIENCE									
District			55%			63%			56%
State			39%			37%			39%
% points over state average			16%			26%			17%
SOCIAL STUDIES									
District			35%			45%			51%
State			19%			27%			36%
% points over state average			16%			18%			15%

Midland Public Schools is proud to share that index scores for each school increased in 2023. The Michigan School Index System report shows federally required school accountability measures under the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015. Index values are based on the degree to which schools met targets in different components such as student growth and proficiency on the

M-STEP and SAT assessments. Given the strong academic performance of MPS schools, eight schools were deemed Reward Schools, and all schools earned a letter grade of A or B based on 2023 data. More details can be found at www.mischooldata.org

2022-2023 School Grades			
School		Academic Proficiency	Academic Growth
Adams	Reward School	B	A
Chestnut Hill		B	B
Central Park		B	B
Plymouth	Reward School	A	A
Siebert	Reward School	A	A
Woodcrest	Reward School	A	A
Jefferson	Reward School	A	A
Northeast	Reward School	B	A
Dow High	Reward School	A	A
Midland High	Reward School	A	B

source: MI School Data

2022-2023 School Index Summary

School	OVERALL INDEX SCORE	
	2022	2023
Adams	83.86	84.07
Chestnut Hill	87.6	89.17
Central Park	75.41	88.27
Plymouth	89.13	93.64
Siebert	84.9	89.42
Woodcrest	87.95	93.22
Jefferson	93.36	95.63
Northeast	78.98	91.71
Dow High	89.4	92.12
Midland High	86.32	90.75
Juvenile Justice Center	13.76	99.8

source: MI School Data

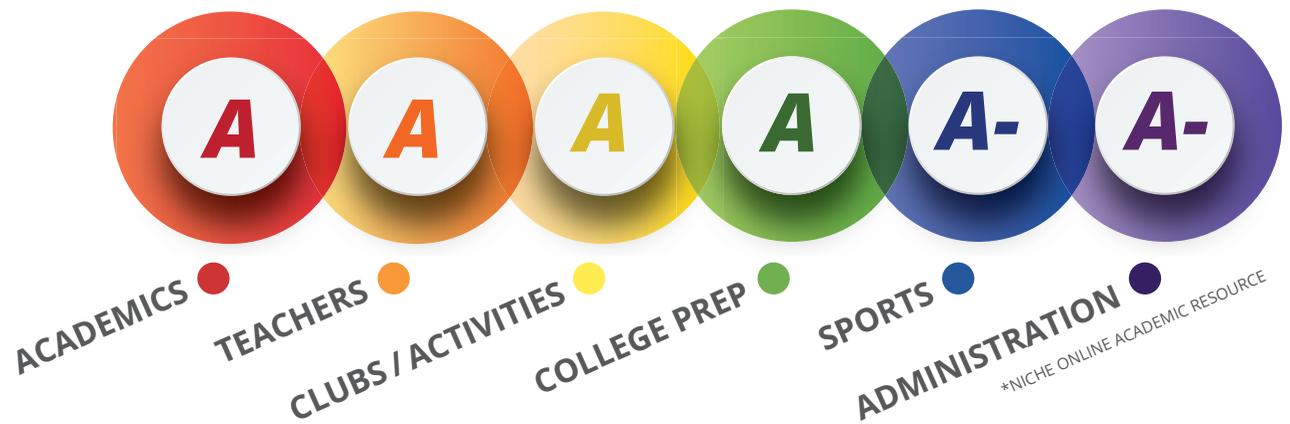


WHERE DID MPS EARN TOP GRADES?

In addition, MPS earned high marks by Niche, an online resource focused on connecting students with colleges, in a number of categories, including:

- A** for Academics
- A** for Teachers
- A** for Clubs/Activities
- A** for College Prep
- A-** for Sports
- A-** for Administration

The point is not to score well on the metrics, but to deliver value to the community in ways the metrics measure.



"The schools have become a magnet for relocation. Companies look for good schools when they're thinking about investing somewhere. It keeps business investment coming in. It keeps property values up," Dolinski said. "Quality of life in general is significantly enhanced when you have a quality school system. Students are less likely to get into a life of crime, which might cause people pain and suffering. We all benefit from having great schools."

May 7, 2024 - Operating millage renewal proposal

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

When is the election?

The election will be held on Tuesday, May 7, 2024. The polls are open from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m. Absentee ballots are available after March 28, 2024.

What is on the ballot?

A ten-year, operating millage proposal that has two parts: renewal of the 18 mill non-homestead millage and renewal of the 5.6523 hold harmless millage.

What is an operating millage?

The operating budget covers everything necessary to provide educational programs and services in Midland Public Schools.

What will be the cost to a homeowner who lives in Midland Public Schools?

The proposal is a renewal of the two millages. There will not be an increase to the current tax rate.

What types of property is the non-homestead operating millage levied on?

The operating millage is not levied on primary residences (the home in which a homeowner lives); it only applies to businesses, second homes, vacant land, and rental property. All school districts in Michigan must levy 18 mills on non-homestead property to receive their full share of state aid (i.e. foundation allowance).

What types of property is the hold harmless millage levied on?

The hold harmless millage is levied on primary residences, qualified agricultural property, qualified forest property, supportive housing property, public school academy property, industrial personal property, and commercial personal property.

How will the proposals benefit residents who don't have school-age students?

There are numerous benefits for residents without school-age children. School district facilities and sites are regularly used by community members who do not have school-age children.

The Midland Public Schools Board of Education believes the school district is an important community resource and partner. They also believe the value and vitality of our community depend on the quality and marketability of our schools.

In addition, research shows that communities with good schools help to maintain local property values.

Where can I get more information about the operating millage proposal?

Go to www.midlandps.org and click on Operating Millage Proposal.



Quick facts

- The May 7th proposal has two parts: renewal of the 18 mill non-homestead operating millage and renewal of the 5.6523 hold harmless millage.
- All Michigan school districts are required to levy a non-homestead operating millage of 18 mills to receive their full foundation allowance.
- The non-homestead operating millage will have no effect on a home owner's primary residence (the home in which a Midland homeowner lives). It is levied on businesses, second homes, vacant properties, and rental properties.
- The hold harmless millage was first approved by Midland voters in 1994 with the approval of Proposal A.
- The hold harmless millage supports the operational budget for Midland Public Schools.
- If these millages are not renewed by Midland voters, the school district will lose \$20.2 million in operating revenue. This will necessitate substantial reductions in the educational program.
- All registered voters living in the Midland Public Schools can vote on this proposal at the polls on May 7 (or by absentee ballot beginning March 28).



Public has expanded access to information

Open communication has long been a priority for Midland Public Schools, driven by an understanding that the district belongs to the community.

With that in mind, MPS is rolling out new and improved tools for enhanced collaboration with the public, driven by an updated district communications plan.

It starts at the school level. For each of the 11 MPS school buildings, the principal is the first line of contact with the public.

"We are fortunate to have an outstanding group of principals who are not only well trained in the many aspects required to foster a vibrant educational experience, but also fully committed to engagement with the community," said Interim Superintendent Penny Miller-Nelson. "For most

members of the community, it all starts at the school with our teachers and principals."

Contact information for principals and other district leaders is a key part of a revised internet webpage designed to enhance openness between MPS and the public. The webpage (www.midlandps.org/communications) provides a range of information about what the district communicates, how it does so, and why openness is important.

"We exist to educate students and serve the families of the Midland community, and we want them to know about all of the great things happening in our schools and within the broader school district," Miller-Nelson said. "It's a two-way street. We want to know what people think, and we want them to know and understand everything we are doing."

Principal contact information:

Adams Elementary

Principal: Tracy Renfro

Email: renfrotd@midlandps.org

Phone: (989) 923-6037

Website: ade.midlandps.org

Jefferson Middle School

Principal: Shannon Blasy

Email: blasysm@midlandps.org

Phone: (989) 923-5873

Website: jms.midlandps.org

Central Park Elementary

Principal: Kara Stark

Email: starkkm@midlandps.org

Phone: (989) 923-6836

Website: cpe.midlandps.org

Northeast Middle School

Principal: Dirk DeBoer

Email: deboerdr@midlandps.org

Phone: (989) 923-5772

Website: nms.midlandps.org

Chestnut Hill Elementary

Principal: Christopher Waha

Email: wahacj@midlandps.org

Phone: (989) 923-6634

Website: che.midlandps.org

Siebert Elementary

Principal: Paul Schroll

Email: schrollpa@midlandps.org

Phone: (989) 923-7835

Website: sbe.midlandps.org

Plymouth Elementary

Principal: Margaret Doan

Email: doanmm@midlandps.org

Phone: (989) 923-7616

Website: pme.midlandps.org

Woodcrest Elementary

Principal: Katelyn Beurer

Email: beurerka@midlandps.org

Phone: (989) 923-7940

Website: wce.midlandps.org

H.H. Dow High School

Principal: Scott Cochran

Email: cochranjs@midlandps.org

Phone: (989) 923-5382

Website: dhs.midlandps.org

Carpenter Street School Pre-Primary Center

Director: Melissa Ahearn

Email: ahearnml@midlandps.org

Phone: (989) 923-6411

Website: cpp.midlandps.org

Midland High School

Principal: Tielannette Schurman

Email: schurmanta@midlandps.org

Phone: (989) 923-5181

Website: mhs.midlandps.org

PATHS Program

Principal: Jeff Lauer

Email: lauerjm@midlandps.org

Phone: (989) 923-5084

Website: midlandps.org/students/paths-program

In addition, there are multiple ways to reach out to the people within the district or to **learn about what is happening in the schools:**

CONTACT US

Website: midlandps.org/communications

Email: communications@midlandps.org

Email the superintendent: www.midlandps.org/mps-connect

Phone: (989) 923-5001

STORIES FROM THE DISTRICT

Mobile App: Midland Public Schools

Podcast: MPS Connections

MPS-TV

Social media: Facebook and Instagram - @MidlandPublicSchools,
X (Twitter) - @MidlandPS

