



February 8, 2016

Volume 3, Issue 24

Midland Public Schools STEM Strategic Plan Receives Local Grants



Midland Public Schools is truly grateful for the very generous funding provided by its community foundation partners -- The Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow Foundation, Rollin M. Gerstacker Foundation, Charles J. Strosacker Foundation, and The Dow Chemical Company Foundation. These foundations have made a combined financial commitment of \$3 million in grants to support the Midland Public Schools STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Strategic Plan over the next three years.

These grants are meant to supplement the 2.95-mill bond for Midland Public Schools which passed in a February 2015 special election with 60.7 percent of the vote. The bond is aimed at raising \$121 million over the next 12-15 years to improve building security, create 21st Century learning environments, increase energy efficiency, address aging facilities, renovate athletic facilities and replace busses.

Midland Public Schools recognizes the need in the community, country and world for its students to have access to quality STEM learning opportunities throughout their K-12 learning experience.

Macauley Whiting, Jr., president of The Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow Foundation, said, "The MPS STEM Strategic Plan builds on the District's reputation of academic excellence. While each of the four foundations has its own area of interest, our collaboration enables MPS to expeditiously implement new, innovative approaches to STEM education throughout the entire K-12 continuum."

"One of Dow's long-time priorities has been to ensure a workforce that is ready to meet the challenges of the future," said Rob Vallentine, director of Global Citizenship and president of The Dow Chemical Company Foundation. "The company supports education programming worldwide and places a special emphasis on STEM in Midland and the Great Lakes Bay Region, where we have a vested interest in igniting a passion for science. This grant is a collaboration that we believe will have significant impact long into the future."

MPS strives to give its students the tools required to be successful in the evolving 21st Century workplace. The National Math & Science Initiative states that over 50 percent of the fastest growing jobs in the U.S. are math, science or technology related with 15 out of 20 of the fastest growing careers requiring a background in math or science.

Midland Public Schools plans to continue the Excellence into 21st Century learning initiatives and its commitment to science that is such an integral part of the Midland community.



MPS is proud to announce that **Midland High School student, Kosuke Dykhuizen** has been selected as a candidate for the prestigious United States President Scholars Program.

The U.S. Presidential Scholars Program was established in 1964, by executive order of the President, to recognize and honor some of our nation's most distinguished graduating high school seniors. **Best wishes Max!**

Congratulations to Jefferson Middle School student, Andrea Vargas,



for winning the Scholastic Rick Riordan Mythology Writing Contest out of more than 10,000 entries!

On February 4, Andrea's class won a classroom skype visit with author Rick Riordan.



"The Legend of the Lily Pad: An Eternal Flower" was the title of Andrea's award-winning myth. Go to the contest section at Scholastic.com to check out Andrea's winning myth about the origin of the lily pad.

Congratulations Andrea!

Nominate an MPS Teacher for the Gerstacker Teacher Proficiency Awards

This year's Gerstacker Ceremony will take place May 12 at 4:10 pm at Northwood University and will celebrate 61 years of teaching excellence.

The nomination window is open now through March 11.

For nomination information please go to our website—www.midlandps.org.

Don't miss your chance. Nominate a great MPS teacher today!

These awards are made possible through the generous support of the Carl and Esther Gerstacker Donor-Advised Fund at the Midland Area Comm. Foundation.

Midland Public Schools
600 East Carpenter
Midland, Michigan 48640

Telephone: 989-923-5001

MPS Website:
www.midlandps.org

Twitter:
@MichaelSharrow2
@MidlandPS

YouTube Channel:
<http://midps.org/youtube>

Community Flyers:
<http://midps.org/cf>

| | |
|---------------------|----------|
| Adams Elementary | 923-6037 |
| Carpenter Street | 923-6411 |
| Chestnut Hill Elem. | 923-6634 |
| Eastlawn Elementary | 923-7112 |
| Plymouth Elem. | 923-7616 |
| Siebert Elementary | 923-7835 |
| Woodcrest Elem. | 923-7940 |
| Jefferson Middle | 923-5873 |
| Northeast Middle | 923-5772 |
| H. H. Dow High | 923-5382 |
| Midland High | 923-5181 |

"pearls" of wisdom ...

"Every kid is one caring adult away from being a success story."
— Josh Shipp

"Productivity is never an accident. It is always the result of a commitment to excellence, intelligent planning, and focused effort."
— Paul J. Meyer



Midland Public Schools
Inspiring Excellence



Adams' kindergarten students celebrated a Q & U wedding last week to symbolize that Q & U always appear together



Midland High Art students play 'dress-up'

Alden B. Dow advocated that play was essential to creativity, and Midland High's Advanced 3D and IB Visual Art students recently took this to heart with an evening exploring the costume collection of their teacher, Jeanne Townsend.

As a child Townsend enjoyed playing dress up, and over a period of 30 years has assembled an extensive collection of costumes and vintage clothing. Students have glimpsed Townsend's treasures in MHS drama productions over the years and made repeated requests for a "play date". So Townsend hosted 18 of her students and their friends at her home in January for pizza and play. Students tried on 81 gowns and dozens of costumes in various periods and genres. Some of the photographs taken by students during the evening may be used as inspiration for future art projects.



Congratulations to four Dow High athletes who signed with the following impressive post-secondary institutions on Wednesday. (From left to right)



- Football: Justin Cook - Northwood University
- Soccer: Alexie Flaminio - Michigan Tech
- Football: Devontae Stine - Northern Michigan
- Football: Mike Robb - Grand Valley State University

Look at the great support these talented student athletes enjoyed during this exciting signing event.



MPS Shining Star Nominations are now being accepted for MPS staff members who you feel make MPS a better place for students. Please take a moment to nominate an MPS staff member today.
<http://midps.org/shiningstarform>

Have questions or comments?
Click on the **MPS Connect!** icon on our website (www.midlandps.org) or call our office at 923-5026.
Let's Connect!

A Great Partnership! It was wonderful having tennis professionals from the Dow Corning Tennis Classic last week come to several MPS schools (Adams, Chestnut Hill, Eastlawn, Jefferson, Northeast, Siebert, Woodcrest) to share their tennis expertise and passion with our students.
Thank you Greater Midland Tennis Center!



Congratulations to Dow High's Keyton Bearer for earning a 4th place medal in Intermediate Pairs at the 2016 United States Figure Skating Championships with his partner, Isabelle Goldstein, on January 17-18 in St. Paul, Minnesota. We are proud of you!