**2018 MPS Graduation Ceremony Times**

As you know, based on results of a graduation poll we conducted last spring, 2018 will be the first year that Midland Public Schools' high school graduation ceremonies will be held at Dow Diamond (home of the Great Lakes Loons).

As this school year marches on, we will continue to unfold graduation ceremony details as they become available.

**We now have the times set for the two high schools for the Thursday, May 24, ceremonies to be held at Dow Diamond:**

- **H. H. Dow High Graduation:** 4:30 p.m. <> **Midland High Graduation:** 7:30 p.m.

It is our plan to rotate the time of the school graduation ceremonies each year. We will continue to evaluate our graduation processes as we journey through the planning of the 2018 ceremonies.

*(In case of inclement weather requiring the graduations to be held indoors, the ceremonies will be held in each high school's gymnasium at the same time as previous years—7:00 p.m.)*

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**2017 Great Lakes Bay Bot Bash!**

The 4th Annual Great Lakes Bay Bot Bash was held at H. H. Dow High School on October 14 with 30 robots from Michigan competing in the FIRST STEAMWORKS game. Dow High's Robotics Team 2619 was one of five local robotics teams hosting the event. Dow’s Team 2619 was captain of the winning alliance that finished the event in 1st place overall, along with two alliance partner teams from Livonia and Lapeer. Midland High’s Robotics Team 5509 was part of an alliance that advanced to the quarterfinals during the competition playoffs. Fantastic job by both of our MPS high school FIRST Robotics teams!

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**Jefferson Huskie 8th Grade Football completed their season UNDEFEATED!**

The last time a JMS football team was undefeated was 1991! Coach Nate Reed shared the following information about this year’s 8th Grade team: “These boys scored 234 points and only gave up 14 on the entire season! I have coached football for a lot of years, and I honestly have never seen a group of boys like this. They are unselfish, hungry to improve, and tough. They have an absolute joy for the game and for competition.”
Congratulations to **Dow High Seniors, Daniel Zhang and Brandon Zhu**, for earning their place as **2017 Siemens Competition FINALISTS**!

“The Siemens Competition honors the best and brightest students for their accomplishments in math and science—students who are changing the world for the better.”

Daniel and Brandon were two of only seven in the State of Michigan that were named as finalists in this prestigious scholarship competition. Best wishes Daniel and Brandon as you continue on to regional competition in November.

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**Thank you Plymouth Elementary School 4th Graders …** Members of Mr. Waha and Ms. Stajdl’s 4th grade classes at Plymouth Elementary did a wonderful job at the Monday, October 16, Board of Education meeting sharing favorite programs they use on the Chromebooks they were issued at the beginning of the school year in the 1:1 technology purchase using bond funds. **Jenna Seybert, Kaya Floyd, Aaron Grassman and Anna Packer** shared information about Dreambox (math), Epic (online library) and Tynker (programming) as well as the time they spend doing “Must dos” and “May dos.”

Thank you Principal Doan, Mr. Waha, Ms. Stajdl, Jenna, Kaya, Aaron and Anna for sharing this information with the Board and audience!

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**In connection with our Who We Are Unit of Inquiry, Plymouth Elementary second graders** have been exploring the roles and responsibilities of community members. This past week we were excited to invite parents and other community members into our classrooms to share about their roles within our Midland community.

A special thank you to Rick Vanderpoel and Tom Fisher from Barton Malow construction, Youth Minister Matt Chesney, Community Integration Leader Kathryn Tate, Community Development Director Steve King and Officer Paul McDonald from the Midland Police Department for coming to teach us! We loved learning all about your unique jobs!

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**MPS Shining Star Nominations** are now being accepted for the 2017-18 school year for MPS staff members who you feel make MPS a better place for students. **Please take a moment to nominate an MPS team member today!** [http://midps.org/shiningstarform](http://midps.org/shiningstarform)

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**Wise Henry Ford Thoughts to ponder:**

“If everyone is moving forward together, then success takes care of itself.”

“You can’t build a reputation on what you are going to do.”

“Failure is simply the opportunity to begin again, this time more intelligently.”

“Quality means doing it right when no one is looking.”