

Midland Public Schools
Inspiring Excellence

OUR SCHOOLS

An update from Midland Public Schools



Carpenter Pre-Primary Center: A Thriving Foundation for Young Learners

The Carpenter Pre-Primary Center and Early Childhood Program at Midland Public Schools (MPS) is blossoming, nurturing young minds and laying a strong foundation for future academic success. Parents and educators alike are singing the praises of this vibrant and impactful program.

Cara Lee Crawford, a parent of three students who attended Carpenter Pre-Primary, attests that her children who have gone through the MPS Pre-K programs have a stronger foundation for academics and stronger social-emotional skills, such as their ability to talk through conflict.

Crawford highlighted the program's caring and dedicated staff, student-centric approach to meeting the needs of each child, and an overall welcoming atmosphere. She said the program's focus on building independence and preparing children for elementary school structure has also been invaluable.

"The MPS Pre-K programs provided a strong academic foundation for our children that has been built upon in subsequent years of elementary school through MPS. Our children have entered elementary school knowing what to expect regarding school schedules and academic content," Crawford explained. She also advised parents not to be intimidated

by the full-day program, emphasizing the teachers' ability to keep learning enjoyable and developmentally appropriate.

Raheef Alturkmani, another MPS parent, echoed Crawford's sentiments. "For both of my kids, we appreciated their positive learning experience. They eagerly wanted to go to school every day." Alturkmani emphasized the program's commitment to kindergarten readiness, highlighting how his children gained a wide range of essential skills. He also appreciated the school's attention to individual needs and cultural sensitivity.

"We noticed that the school promotes an environment where all students feel like they belong and are treated with respect and appreciation," he said.

Pre-Primary Center Director Melissa Ahearn shared insights into the program's innovative approach to early childhood education. She said that staff actively engages in professional development focused on the benefits of play, the neuroscience of movement, and hands-on approaches to literacy instruction.

"We've explored the research on movement and its powerful impact on brain development, social skills, and self-regulation. To support

this, we're implementing daily movement calendars," said Ahearn. She also highlighted the success of the Story Workshop philosophy in developing confident writers. "Building a curiosity and love for storytelling is the first step in helping children see themselves as writers."

The program's growth is a testament to its success. "When the Carpenter building reopened as the Pre-Primary Center in 2018, we started with six classrooms. Today, we have expanded to ten classrooms," Ahearn stated, noting MPS's commitment to meeting the community's growing demand for early childhood education.

The Carpenter Pre-Primary Center is making a significant difference in the lives of Midland's youngest learners, providing a nurturing and enriching environment where children can thrive and develop a lifelong love of learning.



MPS' pre-primary focus on play-based learning, incorporating movement and storytelling, is designed to foster a love of learning and build essential skills.

MPS CTE Program Builds Futures, One Student at a Time

Through its robust Career and Technical Education (CTE) program, MPS is empowering students to explore diverse career paths and build not only valuable technical skills, but also the critical thinking and problem-solving skills needed to thrive in today's workforce. The program's impact is vividly illustrated through the experiences of alumni like Andon Sodini, Jack Coppens, and Jordyn Charles.



Andon Sodini (far left) on a jobsite with Orvosh Builders, framing another local home.

Andon Sodini, a 2022 Midland High School graduate, is currently a tradesman at Orvosh Builders with four years of experience under his belt. He's also expanding his expertise by pursuing his builder's license and undertaking independent projects. Sodini's journey began with a foundation laid at MPS's building trades program. "I've grown up around construction and remodeling," he said. "I've always been good at building things. I enjoy seeing the end result."

The MPS building trades program, he says, provided invaluable preparation. "The building trades program has an amazing teacher, and he's very knowledgeable. It was a great way to learn the building process before you go into it as a career. It helps that they do a little of everything so kids can see what they enjoy doing more than other things." Sodini fondly recalls the collaborative spirit of the program, particularly the experience of "being surrounded by the students and teachers building a big project and seeing it grow." He adds, "Knowing you built that after you're out of school is a very cool feeling."

Sodini's advice to current students is practical and encouraging: "I would encourage kids to try every trade they can. There will be things you're not as good at as others, but the more you learn, the more opportunities life will offer."

Adding to the CTE program's impressive track record is Jordyn Charles, a 2021 Midland High School graduate. Charles is currently a Patient Care Technician at MyMichigan Health in Midland and is set to begin nursing school at Saginaw Valley State University in August. Her journey into healthcare began with a passion ignited in her freshman biology class.

"While at MPS, I fell in love with my freshman biology class, so I took IB/AP Biology," Charles explains. "I heard about the program at the hospital during my sophomore year at Midland High, so I took the required courses to be eligible for the program. Taking Health Care Tech and Advanced Human Body Systems furthered my interest to find a career within the medical field. During my learning experience at the hospital, I was able to explore the various careers within the hospital and decided to pursue nursing."

The MPS Healthcare Technology Program played a pivotal role because it helped her learn about the medical field before even starting her career. "I learned CPR, medical terminology, basic anatomy and physiology, and was able to receive my certified nursing assistant (CNA) once I graduated," she said. "Getting real-world experience while learning allowed me to choose nursing as my next career step and gave me a job once I graduated."



Jordyn Charles (far left) during the holiday season with her team at MyMichigan Health.



Jack Coppens

Another CTE program success story is that of H.H. Dow High School graduate Jack Coppens, a third-year student at Michigan Technological University pursuing a degree in civil engineering with a minor in construction management. Coppens also gained valuable experience as an intern with Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT)'s bridge unit. His path to engineering was solidified through MPS's engineering classes.

"When I was taking the engineering classes at MPS, it helped me with making my decision on what I wanted to study. It showed me that there are a lot of parts to engineering that you can be good at, whether it's coming up with the ideas, to designing the project, to being out on the site and making sure the project is being built the right way," said Coppens. "Having that knowledge made it very easy to decide what I wanted to study."

The stories of Sodini, Coppens, and Charles are just a few examples of how MPS's CTE programs are making a real difference in students' lives. By providing hands-on experience, expert instruction, and opportunities to explore various career paths, MPS equips students with the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in the modern

workforce. The program's commitment to fostering both technical proficiency and personal growth is building a brighter future for Midland's students and the community as a whole.

Your life is impacted every day by a CTE graduate!

Research shows that there are **2.9 million projected job opportunities** across Michigan in CTE-related career fields.

HOW ARE WE PERFORMING?

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

Spring 2024 results showed that MPS maintained proficiency levels 11-31% beyond state averages in all grades and subject areas. The trend of progressive grade level performance gaps vs. state averages persisted.

High school proficiency scores averaged 25% beyond state performance levels. The scores rank among the top 2-9% in the state of Michigan.

In short: MPS students are doing well compared to their peers statewide.

2024 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	51%	60%	55%	58%	59%	83%	81%	79%	74%
State	40%	43%	44%	38%	38%	65%	59%	60%	51%
% points over state average	11%	16%	11%	21%	21%	19%	22%	19%	22%
MATHEMATICS									
District	62%	62%	48%	45%	49%	53%	59%	46%	51%
State	43%	39%	33%	31%	32%	33%	33%	27%	26%
% points over state average	18%	23%	15%	14%	17%	20%	26%	19%	25%
SCIENCE									
District			53%			65%			58%
State			40%			39%			38%
% points over state average			12%			27%			21%
SOCIAL STUDIES									
District			31%			53%			71%
State			19%			30%			40%
% points over state average			12%			24%			31%

2023-2024 School Index Summary		
	OVERALL INDEX SCORE	
School	2023	2024
Adams	84.07	93.86
Chestnut Hill	89.17	89.32
Central Park	88.27	89.24
Plymouth	93.64	94.09
Siebert	89.42	97.74
Woodcrest	93.22	88.70
Jefferson	95.63	95.38
Northeast	91.71	86.62
Dow High	92.12	86.74
Midland High	90.75	90.03

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 areas such as student growth and proficiency on the M-STEP and SAT assessments.

Learn more at www.mischooldata.org.



MPS EXCELS IN KEY COMMUNITY METRICS

MPS earned high marks by Niche, an online resource focused on connecting students with colleges, in a number of categories. Note: The point is not to score well on the metrics, but to deliver value to the community in the ways the metrics measure.

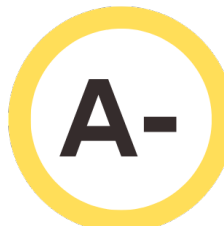
Niche Rankings - 2024



Academics



Teachers



Clubs & Activities



College Prep



Sports



Administration

Overall Grade: A-

Contact a School Administrator:

Adams Elementary
Principal: [Tracy Renfro](#)
Email: renfrotd@midlandps.org
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Website: ade.midlandps.org

Plymouth Elementary
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Siebert Elementary
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Website: sbe.midlandps.org

PATHS Program
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Phone: (989) 923-5084
Website: midlandps.org/students/paths-program

Follow along with MPS!

There are amazing things happening at Midland Public Schools! Keep up-to-date on what's going on at MPS and see how we're inspiring excellence via the methods below.

Website:
midlandps.org

Social media:
Facebook: Midland Public Schools
Twitter (X): @MidlandPS
Instagram: @midlandpublicschools
YouTube: @MidlandPublicSchools

MPS-TV:
Charter Spectrum channel 190
AT&T Uverse channel 99
Roku, Apple TV, & Amazon Fire TV

Email:
Forward Together newsletter
Sent twice per month





FACILITIES IMPROVEMENT BOND PROPOSAL

Investing in excellence, our students, + our community

Facilities Improvement Bond Proposal Addresses Five Key Trends Facing MPS

After almost two years of preparation, community engagement, and facility assessments, MPS has placed a \$285 million Facilities Improvement Bond Proposal on the May 6 ballot. The bond proposal addresses five trends affecting teaching and learning in Midland. It is designed to upgrade school facilities and enhance educational opportunities for this generation and the next.

Trend #1: Aging Facilities

The average MPS school facility is 64 years old. We can extend the life expectancy of most of these facilities and update the learning environment by upgrading various electrical, mechanical, and HVAC systems and replacing failing roofing. However, some schools have reached a point where retrofitting and updating are not cost-efficient. With Carpenter Pre-Primary Center at 99 years old and Northeast Middle School at 75, the cost of renovations and maintenance outweighs the benefits, making it more practical to take them offline.

Teaching strategies continuously evolve and improve over time, so it makes sense to enhance MPS facilities to complement current and future instructional methods. The primary rationale for addressing Midland's aging

facilities is apparent: Research consistently demonstrates that modern, well-maintained school facilities positively influence student learning and achievement.

Trend #2: Preschool & Early Education

Research indicates that early educational opportunities are key to a child's future success. Expanding preschool availability will increase educational opportunities for our students.

The Facilities Improvement Bond Proposal calls for expanding our preschool offerings into elementary schools and ensuring every family has access to these high-demand programs. This would ease the transition from preschool to kindergarten and promote Pre-K through Grade 5 teacher collaboration.

Midland's demographics and State of Michigan initiatives, which call for making early childhood programs available to all MPS families, are driving the demand for early childhood education in Midland.

Trend #3: Enrollment

Midland's student population is shifting north. There are now over 600 Pre-K-5 students north of US-10.

One result is overcrowding and limited space for educational

programming in Midland's northern elementary schools.

The Facilities Improvement Bond Proposal aims to build a new elementary school in the northern area of the school district, which would help address these challenges and balance enrollment.

Trend #4: Space Utilization

Most Midland schools exceed the generally acknowledged 85% space utilization standard. Limited space has required MPS to use educational spaces by default instead of by design. This has led to tutoring in hallways, "cart-based" set-ups for teaching art, music, and world languages, and limited space for special education programming.

Building a new elementary school in the northern area of the school district and renovating and expanding student areas at Jefferson Middle School are intended to alleviate Midland's existing educational space issues.

Trend #5: Academic Excellence

Enhancing Midland's reputation for academic excellence requires upgrading learning spaces so teachers can continue doing their best work and students have learning environments that support achievement and success.

To support educational excellence and prepare students for career and college opportunities, the bond proposal calls for expanding space for Career & Technical Education (CTE) and other emerging programs, upgrading Central Auditorium, enhancing Midland Community Stadium, and improving arts, athletics, band, and orchestra spaces at Midland's secondary schools.

What would the Bond Proposal do?

If approved by voters, the bond proposal would:

- Enhance safety and security
- Expand Pre-K offerings
- Modernize educational program spaces
- Upgrade arts, athletics, and elementary play areas
- Address aging facilities and infrastructure needs

Ways to Learn More

Information about the Facilities Improvement Bond Proposal is continuously updated at midlandps.org/bondproposal.

If you have questions or comments about the bond proposal, please call MPS at 989-923-4411 or email communications@midlandps.org.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why do we need to construct new schools?

Over 600 MPS Pre-K through fifth-grade elementary students reside north of US-10.

Building a new elementary school in this area would free up space in existing elementary schools to allow for expanded Pre-K programming and create dedicated spaces for special education. This would also provide dedicated classroom space to eliminate cart-based teaching taking place at some elementary schools.

Northeast Middle School is nearing the end of its useful life and it makes long-term fiscal and operational sense to replace it with a newly constructed middle school.

How will facility improvements support academic excellence?

All school buildings will be updated to enhance instruction by creating classrooms specifically designed to support program needs and future learning opportunities.

For example, spaces are designed to support Career and Technical Education (CTE) current and future programming, provide needed special education spaces, expand preschool offerings, enhance arts and athletic environments, create accessible play areas for elementary students, and more.



MPS has a long-standing tradition of academic excellence. Work included in the Facilities Improvement Bond Proposal builds on that tradition, making important investments that enhance the learning experience for current and future students and benefit the Midland community.

What investment is required to complete the proposed improvements?

The bond proposal will require a 3.25 mill increase. To calculate your yearly cost, take the taxable value of your home from your most recent tax bill and multiply that number by 0.00325.

How does MPS's bond millage rate compare to benchmark school districts across Michigan?

When compared to benchmark districts across the state, MPS currently has the lowest millage levy related to facility improvements. Even with a new bond millage rate of 6.2 mills, MPS would still have a lower millage rate related to facility improvements than 60% of these districts. See the chart below for more information

Millage Rate Comparison Across Michigan

School District	Sinking Fund	Bond Debt	Total
Chippewa Valley	0.00	8.64	8.64
Rockford	0.4734	7.00	7.4734
Portage	0.4983	6.85	7.3483
West Bloomfield	1.1608	6.15	7.3108
East Lansing	0.9956	6.30	7.2956
Troy	0.9606	6.10	7.0606
Novi	0.4713	6.50	6.9713
Ann Arbor	2.4103	4.10	6.5103
Brighton	0.00	6.19	6.19
Gross Pointe	0.9588	3.14	4.0988
Birmingham	0.00	3.80	3.80
Bloomfield Hills	0.6935	2.75	3.4435
Traverse City	0.00	3.10	3.10
Midland	0.00	2.95	2.95

Facilities Improvement Bond Proposal: An Investment in Midland's Future

The Facilities Improvement Bond Proposal is designed to:

- provide expanded Pre-K programming for Midland's youngest earners to have an early influence on long-term student success.
- create flexible and up-to-date learning spaces (replacing flooring, doors, ceilings, lighting, and original mechanical systems) that support the learning environment.
- enhance safety and security systems to expedite first-responder response time in case of emergency.
- expand video intercom systems to school entry exteriors and update surveillance cameras and key card access at all school buildings.
- update spaces for Career & Technical Education (CTE) and other emerging programs to prepare students for career and college opportunities after graduation.
- build a new elementary school in the northern area of the district to address population shifts and balance student enrollment.
- build a new middle school at the Northeast site to provide a modernized learning space and improve cost efficiencies.
- update elementary playgrounds to provide safe play areas accessible to all students.
- expand Jefferson Middle School to provide additional learning spaces to support current and future programming.
- update athletic spaces to support extracurricular opportunities for students.
- update art, band, and orchestra spaces at the secondary level.
- replace band and orchestra instruments.
- update Central Auditorium lighting, sound systems, technology, HVAC, and acoustical panels.
- provide additional learning spaces for students with special needs.



research.net/r/MidlandFacilitiesBond



**Bond Proposal:
Tell us what you think!**

Community input and participation in the planning process have been critical to developing the bond proposal. Scan the QR code to share your thoughts about the bond proposal.

Questions? More info? We've got you covered!

www.midlandps.org/bondproposal • communications@midlandps.org • 989.923.4411



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