

Midland Park Public Schools

District Back-to-School Update, 2023-2024

Presented at the Midland Park

Board of Education Meeting of October 3, 2023

*Dr. Marie C. Cirasella, Superintendent of Schools
Mrs. Patricia Fantulin, MPBOE Vice President
The District Administrative Team*

The Midland Park Board of Education

- Consists of non-partisan community representatives who receive no pay or benefits for this public service.
- Public participation at board meetings is required by state law.
- Public comment is an opportunity for the Board to listen to citizen concerns, not debate issues or enter into a Q&A on an issue.
- Public should follow the chain of command when issues arise: teacher, principals, superintendent.
- Most Boards follow *Robert's Rules of Order*, which describes how meetings are run.
- Board Agendas are posted prior to each board meeting.

DISTRICT IMPROVEMENTS (SINCE 2010)

- Security
 - Door entrance security system—Fob requirement
 - Security cameras, inside and out
 - Enhanced exterior security lighting
 - State-of-the-art security system for lockdowns, evacuations, etc.
 - Secure, controlled school entrances—security vestibules
- Technology
 - Private Fiber Optic Network
 - Computers in every classroom
 - Smart Boards in every classroom
 - 1:1 technology initiative completed
 - New phones and PA systems
- Fields
 - Stadium Field and Highland Field have been renovated:
 - Stadium Field: new bleachers, synthetic track, sound system, Press Box, Concession Stand
 - Highland Field: new baseball backstop, two new infields, field re-graded and seeded
 - New scoreboards: Stadium Field, Schiffer Field
- Transportation
 - Transitioned from outsourced busing to district-owned transportation system, resulting in significant fiscal gain

DISTRICT IMPROVEMENTS (SINCE 2010)

- All roofs have been replaced
- All windows have been replaced
- Solar Panels installed on all buildings
- Asbestos abatements completed in all buildings
- New vinyl composite tile (VCT) installed in all buildings
- State-of-the-art building management system for HVAC
- New unit ventilators in all buildings
- Boiler Room upgrades in all buildings
- New fire alarm panels, heat detectors, smoke detectors in all buildings
- Electric Panel upgrades in all buildings
- All student restrooms fully renovated
- Identified staff restrooms fully renovated
- Interior lighting upgrades
- Door replacement project—ongoing
- Upgraded kitchens and equipment
- New maintenance equipment:
 - Maintenance Vehicles
 - Tractor, Backhoe, Field Machine, Lawn Mowers, Snow Plows

Emergency Management & School Safety

District School Safety Specialist Principal Nicholas Capuano

Schools must hold monthly security drills, beginning within the first 15 days of the school year.

- ▶ Drills are to include a minimum of two of each of the following:
 - ▶ *Active Shooter*
 - ▶ *Evacuation (non-fire)*
 - ▶ *Bomb Threat*
 - ▶ *Lockdown*
- ▶ Additional drills to consider:
 - ▶ *Shelter-in-Place, Reverse Evacuation*
 - ▶ *Evacuation to Re-location Site*
 - ▶ *Testing of notification system and procedures*
 - ▶ *Testing of communication system and procedures*
 - ▶ *Testing of External Defibrillator (Janet's Law)*

Midland Park Jr./Sr. High School

▶ NEW:

- ▶ Classroom doors
- ▶ Art Rooms, 37 & 40
- ▶ STEM Lab
- ▶ Math Classroom, M6
- ▶ Memorial Hall Upgrades—lighting board and LED lights throughout the auditorium
- ▶ Gym Upgrades—air conditioning and camera/sound system
- ▶ Drop ceiling and LED lighting in middle school and 40's wing

▶ NEW Class Implementation:

- ▶ Innovative Design 2
- ▶ Dramatics 2
- ▶ Desktop Publishing 2
- ▶ NEW Dual Enrollment offerings:
 - ▶ Film Studies
- ▶ NEW AP class: AP Pre-Calculus
- ▶ NEW National Art Honor Society
- ▶ NEW Bio-recycling Honor Society
- ▶ NEW Online Financial Literacy Course
- ▶ NEW Electronic Hall Pass System

Dual-Enrollment Partnerships

Midland Park has created five partnerships with local colleges and universities where students have the opportunity to earn college credits.



MPHS Dual Enrollment Program

MPHS's DUAL ENROLLMENT PROGRAM—LINKING SECONDARY ACADEMICS TO HIGHER EDUCATION

- *Dual enrollment programs allow secondary students to enroll in college courses and receive higher education credit prior to graduating high school. Successful dual enrollment programs provide academic, social, and financial benefits to students by increasing college readiness, improving the college participation rates of at-risk students, and reducing the cost of higher education.*
- *MPHS students have the opportunity to participate in 39 classes that offer college credit. MPHS offers 19 Advanced Placement (AP) classes and 20 dual enrollment course offerings. Once the dual enrollment course is completed, a transcript is provided upon request from the higher education institution.*
- *The popularity of the district's dual enrollment program has increased over the past three years as more partnerships with colleges have been established. For example, the popular Culinary Program includes three dual enrollment opportunities for students: Foods & Nutrition, Introduction to Baking, and Regional Cuisine.*

2022-2023

Total Students Enrolled (non-repeating): 53

Total Classes Taken: 72

Total College Credit Hours Earned: 227

Total Tuition Savings: \$59,347

MPHS: *New Art Rooms*



MPHS: *New Upgrades in Memorial Hall*

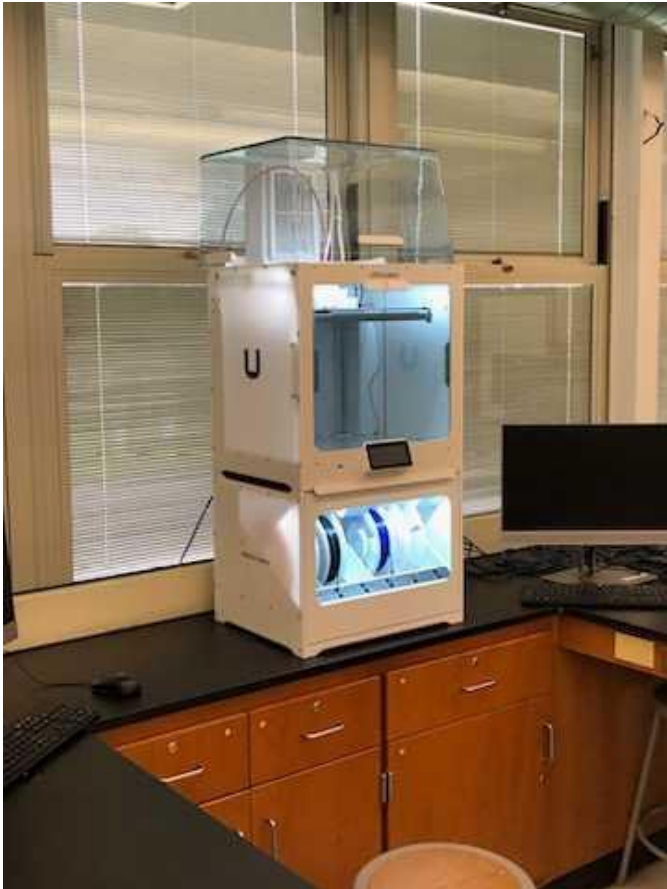


New Lighting Board
and lights throughout
the auditorium.



MPHS: *New* STEM Lab

Mrs. Vandenberghe's classes have been moved to the new STEM lab. New STEM lab is fitted with two 3-D printers, laser cutter, and new desktop computers. This room will allow her students to do more project based experiments.

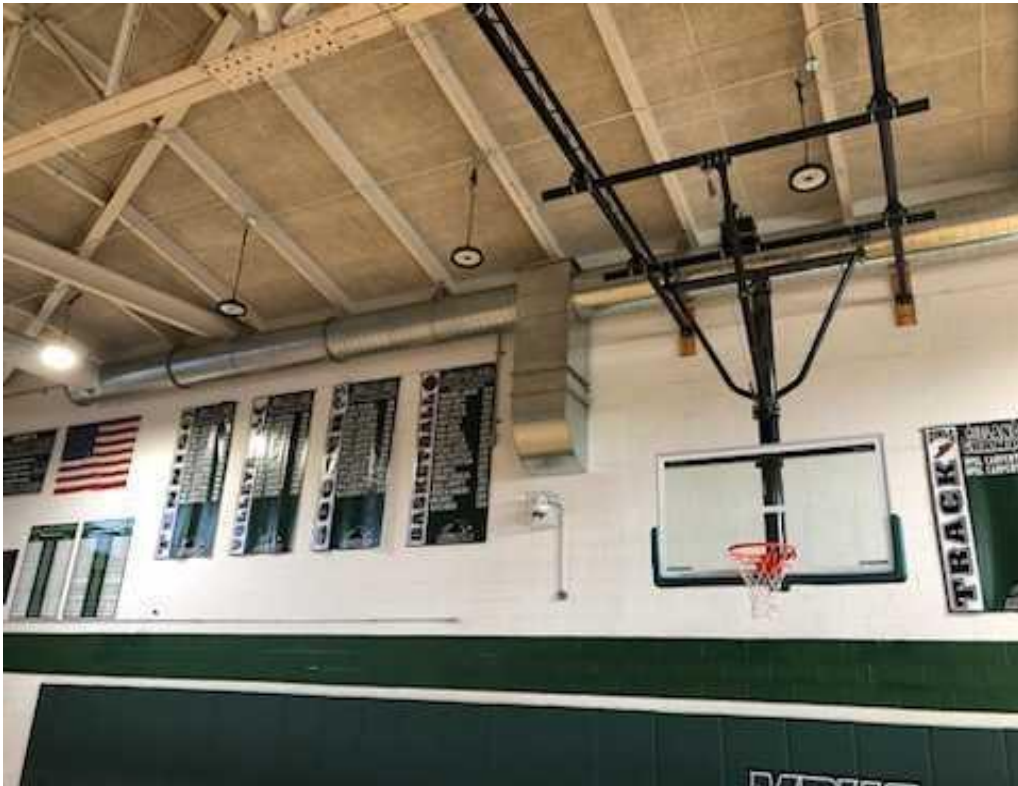


MPHS: *New Math Classroom (M6)*

Ms. Lee's Algebra 2
and AP Statistics
class will be next
to the Media
Center.



MPHS: *New Upgrades in the Gym*



Improvements:

- Air conditioning
- Camera/sound system
- Floor paint

MPHS: *New Drop Ceiling and LED Lighting*



Classrooms:

- ↴ New drop ceiling and LED lighting in middle school and 40's Wing
- ↴ Rooms 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 30, 31B, 36, 41, 42, 43, 44, 53



MPHS: *New Classroom Doors*



Godwin School

Facilities

- ▶ *Artistically enhanced front entrance of school building*
- ▶ *All-Purpose Room will be air conditioned*
- ▶ *Door project has been completed*

Leadership Team established to focus on Transforming Early Childhood Education

- ▶ *Embrace and Enact a Pre-K-3rd Vision*
- ▶ *Family and Community Engagement Project*

Curriculum

- ▶ *Social Studies curriculum development across grade levels*
- ▶ *Literacy partnership renewed for the upcoming school year*
- ▶ *Phonics and grammar focus to enhance reading and writing skills*

Assessment

- ▶ *Link-It Benchmark Tests*
- ▶ *On Demand Writing Assessments*
- ▶ *Reading Comprehension through Units of Study*

Godwin School



Highland School

- ▶ *Implementation of the Foundations, program at the 3rd grade level; to spiral (reinforce) reading in grades 3 and 4, defined spelling lists with an implementation program were developed.*
- ▶ *Rowing machines will be added to the dynamic exercise stations which already include stationary bicycles, mountain climbing machines, heavy ropes, medicines balls, light weight dumbbells, etc.*
- ▶ *Two new 3D printers in the library curriculum; a button maker was also acquired.*
- ▶ *The Child Study Team Trailer will be replaced soon to provided more office space, counseling areas for children, and an additional conference area.*
- ▶ *New adaptive student desks and chairs purchased for two fifth grade classrooms.*
- ▶ *Grade 6 Physics will accurately time their CO₂-propelled cars through a start/finish laser timer and track.*

Highland School



Department of Special Education

- ▶ *The Department of Special Educations services 170 students, ages 3 – 21.*
- ▶ *Increase in number of instructional staff within the department.*
- ▶ *Expansion of “POWER,” Social Problem-Solving Groups at the Junior/Senior Level.*
- ▶ *Best Practices in Instruction: use of a Parallel Curriculum in Collaborative classes and the Resource Center.*
- ▶ *Continue to include students with their non-disabled peers as much as possible (ensuring an LRE: Least Restrictive Environment.)*
- ▶ *Increased focus on student mental health and depression issues.*
- ▶ *Greater number of students engaged in vocational training programs and job skill exposure.*
- ▶ *Multi-sensory reading instruction training provided for identified staff.*

*Director of Special Education Mrs. Ann Marie Bruder
abruder@mpsnj.org*

Department of Athletics

- *The NJSIAA has revised their **Recruiting** rule(s). Student-athlete recruiting is now permitted prior to a student entering high school.*
- *The NJSIAA has revised their **Transfer** rule(s). This rule would allow one “free” transfer for student-athletes (no sit-out period of 30 days). There are different guidelines in place for seniors transfers and students who transfer after practice/competition begins.*
- *Continue expanded use of **HUDL Cameras** (2) for gym events and stadium events; HUDL Team and HUDL Assist accounts for managing video and statistics; Expanded coverage for athletics via our MP Athletics YouTube Channel.*
- *New **Volleyball** poles and nets in the gym.*
- ***Air Conditioning** installed in the gym.*
- ***NJIC** continues the use of scheduling some assigned independent games based on where you finished the previous season (competitive balance.)*
- *Thank you to the **Athletic Boosters** for their generosity in supporting our athletic teams!*

New Director of Athletics Mr. Patrick Clark
pclark@mpsnj.org

OPT-OUT Provision for Parents/Guardians

Opt-Out Provision

MPBOE Policy 5250: EXCUSAL FROM CLASS OR PROGRAM

The Board of Education directs that a pupil be excused from any part of the instructions in health education, family life education, sex education, or instruction that includes dissection of animals that the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of the pupil or the adult pupil finds morally, conscientiously, or religiously offensive. A request for excusal must be presented in a signed statement and submitted to the Principal or designee. An excused pupil shall be assigned to an alternate program of independent study on a substitute topic within the health education, family life education, or sex education program. The parent's or legal guardian's right of excusal applies to any alternate program as well. No excused pupil will be penalized by loss of credit as a result of his/her excusal, but a pupil will be held accountable for successful completion of any alternate program assigned.

In accord with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:35-4.43, any student whose parent presents to the Principal a signed statement that any part of the instruction in health, family life education, or sex education is in conflict with his/her conscience or sincerely held moral or religious beliefs shall be excused from that portion of the course where such instruction is given and no penalties as to credit or graduation shall result.

To Opt-Out your child from instruction, please contact your child's principal.

For the complete NJDOE document, access: <https://www.nj.gov/education/standards/chp/>

Anti-Bullying Legislation (HIB)

“Week of Respect” is October 2-6, 2023

The purpose of New Jersey’s annual “Week of Respect” is to teach students how to respect others, our schools and community, and to become more aware of ways to ensure a safe and caring environment for all students by not engaging in incidents of harassment, intimidation, and bullying.

“School Violence Awareness Week” is October 16-20, 2023

All New Jersey districts designate the week beginning with the third Monday in October of each year as “School Violence Awareness Week.” This week provides valuable, informative opportunities for districts to bring staff, students, parents, and law enforcement together for the important work of violence prevention and school safety.

District Anti-Bullying Staff

Mr. Craig Rush, District Anti-Bullying Coordinator: crush@mpsnj.org

Ms. Kelly Scala, Godwin/Highland Anti-Bullying Specialist: kscala@mpsnj.org

Ms. Margaret Owens, MPHS Anti-Bullying Specialist : mowens@mpsnj.org

Ms. Elizabeth Wall, MPHS Anti-Bullying Specialist: ewall@mpsnj.org

We welcome our new staff members!

Ms. Jennifer Amoroso, Special Education Teacher, Godwin

Mr. Troy Bianchi, Health/Physical Education Teacher, MPHS

Ms. Briana Brislin, Grade 3 Special Education Teacher, Highland

Mr. Patrick Clark, Vice Principal, Athletic Director MPHS

Ms. Nima Durso, Grade 7 Science, MPHS

Mr. Sean Gang, Health/Physical Education Teacher, Godwin

Ms. Elexa Haarman, Health/Physical Education, MPHS

Ms. Katy Hildebrand, Kindergarten Teacher, Godwin

Ms. Kristen Kramer, Grade 7 English, MPHS

Ms. Riley Murray, Grade 2 Teacher, Godwin

Ms. Merangie Munoz, Secretary, Godwin

Ms. Peyton Mulligan, Grade 4 Teacher, Highland

Ms. Lisa O'Connor, K-6 Enrichment Teacher

Ms. Amelia Rodgers, Guidance Counselor, MPHS

Ms. Samantha Severance, ELL/Spanish Teacher MPHS

Mr. Alexander Sienko, Grade 5 Teacher, Highland

Ms. Jaimie Synnott, K-6 Art Teacher, Godwin & Highland

District Administrative Team

Dr. Marie Cirasella, Superintendent of Schools

Ms. Stacy Garvey, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Ms. Danielle Bache, Godwin School Principal

Mr. Peter Galasso, Highland School Principal

Mr. Nicholas Capuano, MPHS Jr./Sr. High School Principal

Mr. Jason Whelpley, MPHS Assistant Principal

Mr. Patrick Clark, MPHS Assistant Principal/Director of Athletics

Ms. Ann Marie Bruder, Director of Special Services

Mr. Scott Collins, Supervisor of Buildings & Grounds

Mr. Eurico Antunes, District Technology Coordinator

Sgt. Noah VanVliet, MPPD SRO

Ms. Rasheda Garcia, HIP/SHIP Principal

Ms. Melissa Brockway, SHIP Supervisor

Thank you to our teachers and community partners!

"If you have to put someone on a pedestal, put teachers. They are society's heroes."

Author Guy Kawasaki

"Partnerships in education build bridges between families, communities, and schools. As children interact with the people, places and things associated with the family, the immediate community, and beyond, they extend their horizons to develop the attitudes, skills, and knowledge they need to become effective citizens."

(ne.gov)

What is Parent Engagement?

Parent engagement in schools is defined as parents and school staff **working together** to support and improve the learning, development and health of children and adolescents.

Parent engagement in schools is a **shared responsibility** in which schools are committed to reaching out to engage parents in meaningful ways, and parents are committed to **actively supporting** their children's and adolescents' learning and development.

Studies have shown that parent engagement in schools can **promote positive education and health behaviors** among children and adolescents. Research shows a strong relationship between parent engagement and educational outcomes, including school attendance, higher grades, and classroom test scores.

American Psychological Association