

Charger Voice



Herbert Henry Dow High School

3901 N. Saginaw Rd

Midland, MI 48640

www.dhs.mps.k12.mi.us

August 2011

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Dear Charger Families,

Welcome back to a new school year! Warm greetings to our new ninth grade students and their families, we are excited to welcome you to the Charger family. Our building has now completed Phase II, and is wired with new electrical, ceilings and of course, empty halls waiting to be filled with students! Thank you to all who have been patient as our staff worked out of the media center this summer to allow for the upgrading and housekeeping efforts. We are now set to start an exciting year filled with promise and accomplishment.

In this newsletter you will find important information for the upcoming school year, including: the 2011-12 Dow High School calendar of events, vehicle registration form, attendance policy, and other key guidelines that will be helpful for your student and family throughout the school year. Please make sure that we have your email addresses so that we can send regular building information via email to keep our families in touch with all Dow High happenings. Make sure to frequently visit our website and view daily student announcements, celebrations, updates and other important events occurring in our school community.

We will be sending out student schedules the week of August 22nd. In that mailing, the schedule will also reveal each student's locker number/combination for the school year. The schedule will also note the assigned counselor that your student can consult with during the school year. The Dow High Counseling Center is staffed with dedicated and resourceful professionals to help guide students while at Dow High School. The following staff and their offices are located in the center and will be available to serve our learning community:

Lori Hallberg, Counselor

Jill English, Counselor

Doug Bradford, Counselor

Sarah Pancost, International Baccalaureate Consultant

Carla Koch, Special Services Coordinator

Bob Wellman, Athletic Director

Kim Clarke, Counseling Office Professional

Penny Miller-Nelson, Career and Tech. Coordinator

Kevin Dodick, Co-op Instructor

The administrative team and counselors have reviewed all schedules to assure each student has a full schedule of courses. Please understand that student schedules are set and changes will be made only for scheduling conflicts. We are no longer able to revise student schedules in terms of hour or teacher preferences. It is the student's responsibility to make an appointment in our Counseling Center during the first week of school for required classes that may not have been scheduled. The Dow High counseling staff has reserved the first week of school to individually meet with students. We ask our parents to refrain from calling during that time to allow our counselors to meet with students.

To help get our students acclimated to the building, we are hosting a "Schedule Walk" on Monday, August 29th from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. The building will be open for students to walk their schedules ahead of the first day and organize their lockers. Staff will be available to assist and answer questions. On Wednesday, September 21st Dow High staff will host our annual Curriculum Night for parents to walk their student's schedule, learn expectations of each course and meet your student's teachers. Please note the specifics of the evening, included in this newsletter. I hope to see you all there!

I am looking forward to the start of the 2011-12 school year. I hope you feel welcome to contact me via email at kastlps@mps.k12.mi.us or by phone at 923-5388 throughout the year with any questions or concerns you may have.

In Charger SPIRIT!

Pamela Kastl, Principal
H.H. Dow High School



CHARGER S.P.I.R.I.T.

Strength Pride Integrity Respect Intensity Tradition

Back to School Information for Students

As summer draws to a close, our planning for the 2011-2012 school opening is just about complete. We look forward to working with you this year and remain committed to providing a quality educational program for our students.

Classes start Tuesday, September 6 at 7:40 a.m.

We realize students are eager to see their schedules and get their lockers before the official first day. You will receive your students' schedule in a separate mailing.

On Monday, August 29 we will host a "Schedule Walk". The building will be open from 9:00– 11:00 and 1:30 – 3:00 for students to follow their class schedule, locate and try their locker combinations and register student vehicles. All students are welcome!

On September 6, students will check registration materials, receive student handbook/planners, and then have a full day of instruction. We will post a list of all students and their first hour classes to facilitate this process. During their first hour class, they will be asked to check enrollment information. **Please be sure your student has your work and cell phone numbers.** Please notify the main office if your numbers change during the school year.

Stay Connected

Parents who wish to receive regular newsletters and information electronically, should contact the main office. Having this information on file will allow parents' access to Home Access. Parents can track student grades, attendance, and daily assignments through Home Access.

The Dow High website contains many useful items of information for parents and students. Visit the Dow High website at www.dhs.mps.k12.mi.us

There is also a link to Highschoolsports.net, a website which has all the sports schedules, cancellations and delays and scores.

Student Planners

Dow High School has purchased a planner for every student. Planners will be distributed to students during their first hour class on September 6. This planner contains useful information, our Dow High Policies and Procedures, as well as a place for students to organize their time and tasks.

Transcript Requests

Transcript requests for college applications, scholarships, and various summer program opportunities are made in the Counseling Center, through your counselor, or the office professional. There is a \$5 service fee for the first five transcript requests and a \$10 fee for requests of six and more for college applications.

Docufide is the new Michigan eTranscript provider. MPS student transcripts, letters of recommendation and school reports are submitted securely to the post-secondary institutions selected by students. All Michigan colleges accept eTranscripts. Any Michigan resident can use Docufide to request transcripts from any school in the Docufide system.

International Baccalaureate

This year we celebrate Dow High's fifth year as an International Baccalaureate World School. For students interested in pursuing an IB Diploma we boast a 100% Diploma success rate! Recent graduates have reported that the IB Diploma was their best preparation for a successful college career.

Students who are unable to schedule classes for a complete diploma, but would like to complete the "core" of the IB program should consider becoming Dow High World Scholars. World Scholars will take the Theory of Knowledge class where they will write an extended essay, and they will complete the "community, action, and service" component of the IB Diploma. The program will be introduced to incoming juniors during September in their English classes. Questions about IB should be directed to IB Coordinator Sarah Pancost at pancostsg@mps.k12.mi.us.

Chartwells School Dining Services

Chartwells School Dining Services continues to provide Midland Public Schools with an appealing and nutritionally sound child nutrition program that is safe and affordable to parents, students, faculty and staff. The DHS website will have a link to Chartwell's monthly menu.

Pay for and track student meal accounts online. Parents can now pay for lunch accounts online by credit card or checking account. To get started, you need to sign up for an account and associate it with your child. You will need their student ID number. Visit www.mps.k12.mi.us/online-payments for more instructions.

Student Drivers and Car Registration

Driving a car to school is a privilege. Any car on school property must be registered in Student Services. **There is a \$50 registration fee.** The deadline for registering vehicles without penalty is September 30. The sticker permits must be adhered to the lower left rear window (driver's side). The sticker must be visible. Vehicles not registered will be ticketed and may be towed or booted. For further guidelines please refer to the Student Handbook.

Activity Fees for Athletics and Pom Pon

Midland Public Schools has a \$150 per sport with an annual cap of \$300 per student activity fee. Families can pay online or in person in the Athletic Office. Scholarships will be available; students should see their counselors for information. Students that qualify for free and reduced lunch will automatically be exempt from the fee. An application for free and reduced lunches may be picked up in the Main Office or in Student Services. Fees must be paid prior to the first event of the sport.

School Pictures!

All students will be photographed on **Tuesday, September 13** during their English classes. Students wishing to purchase pictures will need to bring money and order forms on Picture Day. All students will have their pictures taken for ID cards whether or not they choose to purchase a packet. Retakes are scheduled for October 13.

Senior Pictures

Senior pictures should be submitted to the Yearbook Staff by December 1. Pictures should be standard wallet size, and in color. Photos can be submitted electronically to Advisor Cammie Hall at hallcs@mps.k12.mi.us or turned in to the Yearbook Staff in Room 218.

Curriculum Night

Parents are invited to come to class on Wednesday, September 21 from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. We encourage you to arrive at 6:15 p.m., in the cafeteria, to claim your students' schedule. By following your students schedule you will meet all the teachers and find out what is expected for your student to succeed. We look forward to seeing you.

At 6:30 Judge Beale will present a program titled "Emerging Drug Trends".

Dow High Welcomes New Staff

H. H. Dow High is pleased to welcome our new staff members:

Ms. Amy Slabaugh – Assistant Principal
Mary Hayes - Mathematics
Eric Mohr - Science
Joe Pococke – Automotive
Tom Evans – Social Studies
Dirk DeBoer- Psychologist

LINK Meetings

LINK is a chance for parents to get information, support student activities, and discuss issues of mutual concern. Meetings are usually held on the third Wednesday of the month from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. in the Media Center.

Join us on:

October 19
November 16
January 18
February 29
April 18

College Night – September 22

Midland County College Night will be held at Northwood University on Thursday, September 22 from 6:30 until 8 p.m. This very important event allows students and parents to meet with representatives from colleges, universities, trades schools and the Armed Services.

Electronic Communication Devices

During class time, use of personal electronic communication devices is allowed only under the specific direction of a teacher, with approval of the principal. At any time during a class, a teacher may prohibit the use of personal electronic communication devices. Use of these devices outside of class time (as defined in Section I of this Code of Student Conduct) will be under the direction of the principal. The school district is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged devices. Any misuse of electronic communication devices, in any illegal or unethical way, is in violation of the district's *Guidelines for Acceptable Use of Telecommunications and Technology*.

Student Union Plans Annual Magazine Drive

The Student Union will hold its annual school fundraiser September 12 – 27, 2011. The magazine drive (through QSP, a Readers Digest Company) is a school-wide effort to raise funds for clubs and student activities.

Attendance Policy

- H. H. Dow High School has a 12-day per semester maximum absence policy.
- Unexcused absences do not allow students to make up school work.
- School excused absences are not counted in the 12-day limit.
- Medical absences are not counted in the 12-day limit.
- Pre-excused absences are counted.

If a student is out for medical reasons, (i.e. dentist, orthodontist, doctor appointment for illness), parents/students need to provide Student Services with a physician's note of verification for the hour(s) or day(s) of absence.

Students who exceed the 12-day limit and fail the first two marking periods will be dropped from the class if they are 16 or over. Students under the age of 16 years and reach the 12-day limit are subject to a truancy petition to the Midland County Probate Court.

Students who exceed the 12-days are required to take the final exam and earn a 70% or better on the final exam to earn credit for the class (this includes senior students). If they do not earn a 70% on the exam, the student received a NC/No Credit.

Absences must be verified within 48 hours by parent or guardian in order to receive an excused absence. **The attendance hotline number is (989) 923-5377.**

H. H. Dow High School 2011-2012 School Calendar

August 17-19	Drumline begins	January 3	Classes resume
August 22-25	Marching Band Camp	January 10	Student Union Mtg.
August 22-25	Band Practice	January 11	Student Senate Mtg.
August 26	Band @ Football Game	January 17 - 19	Semester Exams
August 25	New students to DHS orientation 6:00 PM	January 18	Parent LINK Mtg.
August 29	Students in building 9:00 - 11:00 AM	January 19	End of 1st semester
August 30	Professional Development	January 20	Records Day
August 31	Records Day	January 23	Professional Development
		January 24	Beginning of 2nd semester
September 1	Records Day	January 25	Incoming 9th grade Parent Night @ 6:30 PM
September 2	Vacation Day		
September 5	Labor Day Holiday	February 1	Incoming 10th & 11th grade Parent Night @ 6:30 PM
September 6	Classes Begin	February 4	Choral Solo & Ensemble
September 13	Picture Day	February 15	Incoming 12th grade Parent Night @ 6:30 PM
September 12 - 27	Magazine Drive	February 17	Professional Development
September 16	First Magazine Drive Assembly	February 18	Band & Orchestra Solo & Ensemble
September 19	Homecoming Nominations	February 20	Vacation Day
September 19	Professional Development	February 21	Green/Blue Concert Bands Concert @ CMS
September 21	Freshman Speeches & Election	February 21	DHS/MHS Gold Concert Bands Concert @ CMS
September 21	Curriculum Night @ 7:00 pm	February 22	DHS/MHS Symphonic Bands Concert @ CMS
September 22	County College Night @ Northwood	February 25	RenFair @ MCFTA
September 22	1st Student Union Mtg.	February 27	Symphony Concert
September 23	Vote for Homecoming Court & Announce	February 29	Parent LINK Mtg.
September 26	Vote for Homecoming King and Queen		
September 27	Last day for magazine drive turn-in		
September 28	Homecoming Bon Fire	March 2 & 3	MSBOA Band Festival @ CMS
September 29	Homecoming Parade	March 2	End of 4th six-week marking period
September 30	Homecoming Assembly & Game	March 5-7	MEAP Testing
		March 12	Professional Development
		March 15	Parent/Teacher Conferences
October 1	Homecoming Dance	March 16 - 17	Concert Orchestra Festival
October 11	Student Union	March 20	Concert Orchestra
October 12	Student Senate Mtg.	March 19 - 21	MEAP Testing Make-up
October 12	PSAT	March 23 - 24	Choir Festival
October 12	Marching Band Showcase	March 26 - 30	Spring Fever week
October 13	End of 1st six-week marking period	March 30	Spring break begins at end of day
October 14	Professional Development		
October 17 - 21	Spirit Week		
October 19	Parent LINK Mtg.	April 9	Classes resume
October 21	Magazine Drive Assembly	April 13	End of 5th six-week marking period
October 18	PLAN Test (10 th grade)	April 18	Parent LINK Mtg.
October 19	MEAP (9 th grade)	April 25	Sports Booster Spaghetti Dinner
October 25	Parent/Teacher Conferences	April 27	Professional Development
		April 30-May 22	IB Testing
November 1	Chamber Singers/Symphony		
November 1	Student Union Mtg.	May 10	Gerstacker Awards
November 2	Student Senate Mtg.	May 16	Professional Development (PM)
November 8	Professional Development	May 16	Concert - All Bands @ CMS
November 16	Parent LINK Mtg.	May 19	Prom
November 23	End of 2nd six-week marking period	May 21	Choir
November 24 & 25	Thanksgiving Holiday - No School	May 22	Orchestra
		May 25	Last Day for seniors
December 1	Senior pictures due for yearbook	May 28	Memorial Day Holiday
December 6	Chorus & Concert Orchestra		
December 6	Student Union Mtg.	June 1	Senior Breakfast
December 7	Student Senate Mtg.	June 1	Graduation
December 14	Professional Development (PM)	June 5 - 7	Semester Exams
December 15	Concert - All Bands @ CMS	June 8	Records Day
December 19	Chamber Singers/Symphony	June 9	ACT Test @ Dow High
December 22	Holiday Music Assembly		
December 22	Winter Vacation begins at end of day		**Dates are subject to change

School Colors

The school colors are green and gold as seen on our athletic, band and other uniforms, as well as in the décor in parts of the building.

Newspaper

Students in the journalism and the advanced journalism classes publish the UPDATE regularly during the school year.

Yearbook

Members of the yearbook class prepare the Dow High Yearbook. Orders are placed in the fall.

School Ring

The school ring, designed by a student committee, may be ordered by any student.

School Song

Onward Chargers, on to victory
Lead us on to fame
We'll fight for green and gold
Our colors bright
We're out to win this game, Go-Fight-Win!

Chargers, we will be true to you
Faithful 'til our struggle is through
Dow High
Our pride lives long
Charging onward to victory strong.
Fight!

We are proud of our school!

H. H. Dow High School extends an invitation to interested parents and community members to visit our school. Visitations during school hours can be arranged by calling (989) 923-5382. All visitors are asked to report to the main office to sign in and obtain a visitor badge.

Lunch Policy

Midland Public Schools has an “open lunch” policy for students attending high school. Parents who wish to have their student remain at school for lunch must arrange this through the Student Services Office. Students have 30 minutes for lunch each day during which time they may leave the building or eat in the school cafeteria. **ALL STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO RETURN TO THEIR NEXT CLASS ON TIME.** If you are leaving school at lunch and will not return, you must sign out.

Building Hours

In support of the many activities at the high school level and the need for safety of students please communicate with your students the following building procedures and times:

- After 4:00 p.m. students must be under the supervision of an adult, coach, or extra-curricular advisor.
- The building hours will be 7:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.
- The Media Center is open from 7:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. every day as a supervised location for students to study.
- Breakfast is served in the cafeteria from 7:15 a.m. – 7:40 a.m.
- To prevent students from wandering the building, we have locked down numerous areas. Students need to be picked up or in an assigned area after their school day.
- Students who do not have a seventh hour class should exit the building by 2:45 p.m., unless they are studying in the media center.