

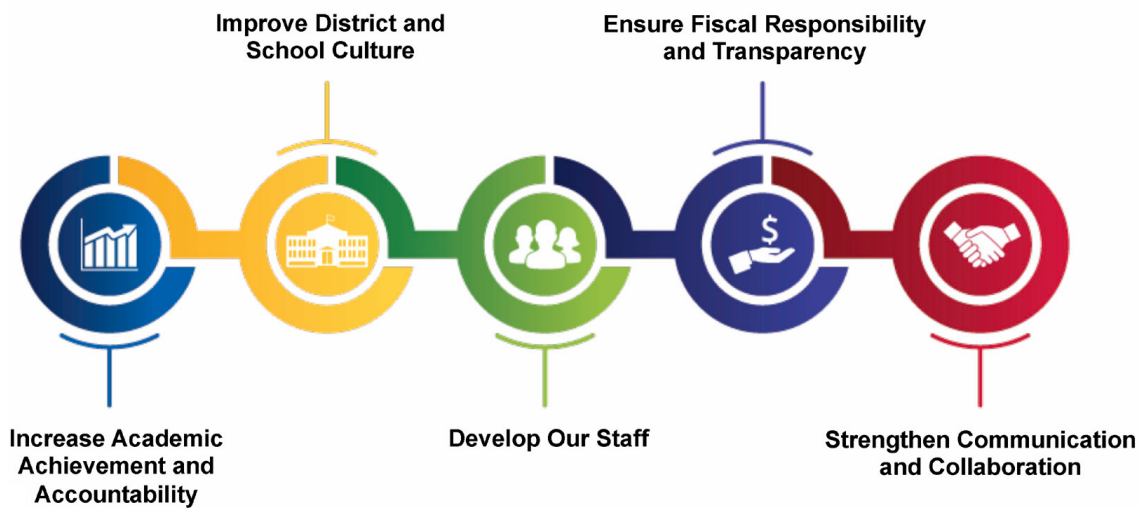


**MILWAUKEE
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**



Superintendent’s Report – August 2020

The Superintendent’s Report is designed to provide the Milwaukee Board of School Directors and the MPS community with an update on current activities underway to support the district goals of academic achievement; student, family and community engagement; and effective and efficient operations as they are aligned to the district’s strategic objectives and the Five Priorities for Success.



MPS Celebrates Summer Graduates with Virtual Graduation

Congratulations, MPS summer graduates! Following tremendous hard work and dedication to complete their courses in Summer Academy, more than 90 students graduated this summer. On Saturday, August 8, a virtual graduation ceremony took place to celebrate these students. The ceremony can be accessed via the [MPS YouTube page](#). We invite the entire Milwaukee community to continue helping us celebrate our graduates! Hang signs, get creative or post on social media and hashtag with #MPSClass2020, #MPS Proud, or #MPS Grads.

Congratulations, graduates! We wish you a bright and successful future.



Arts Internship Program Used Virtual Opportunities to Enhance Experience

The Arts Internship Program provided MPS high school students with practical job experience in arts-related positions this summer. Interns explored the arts in an in-depth and applicable way while also gaining 21st century job skills. For many students, these internships served as their first paid job experience.

Milwaukee Recreation partnered with nine arts organizations to support 33 interns during the summer months - Artists Working in Education, Casa Romero, Lead2Change, Lynden Sculpture Garden, TBEY, TRUE Skool, UWM Peck School of the Arts, Walker's Point Center for the Arts, and Walnut Way.

Though many of the typical events and opportunities have been canceled, the program and host organizations created a hybrid curriculum that combined virtual and in-person work for 70 percent of the positions. The in-person work involved supporting arts-based day camps for children or creating art kits for distribution to parents and families.

In place of in-person trainings throughout the program, each intern was tasked with completing a series of reflections based on several prompts, including "A Day in the Life of...", an interview with an arts professional, and a takeaway from their internship experience. Interns had the choice to submit a video or written content, and were encouraged to show their creativity.

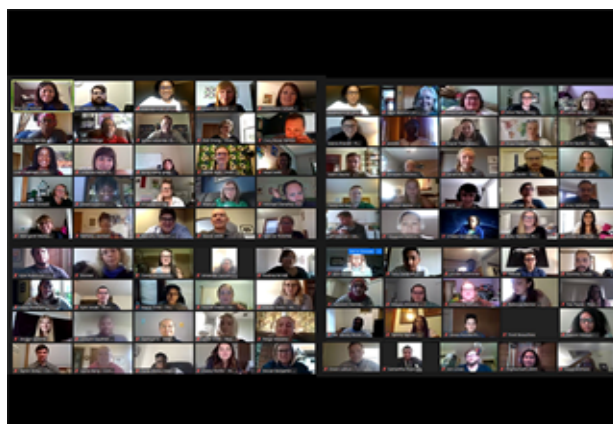
You can find the full catalog of Summer 2020 Reflections [here](#).

MPS Annual New Educator Institute Helps Launch the School Year

Teachers new to MPS were back in class during the week of August 3, 2020. New educators received orientation, onboarding, mentoring, classroom tools, and more so they can have a successful school year.

About 100 new teachers attended five full days of virtual professional development to prepare for their first year in MPS. Sessions covered a wide range of topics related to long-term practices as well as current technology needs, including:

- Ambitious Instruction 3.0
- Building Relationships Through Culturally and Linguistically Responsible Teaching Practices
- Instructional Technology and Online Instruction
- Exploring MPS Digital Library Resources
- Classroom Management
- Mentoring Support
- Human Resource Supports
- Best Practice in Assessment
- Introduction to Special Education



MPS is excited to welcome our new and returning teachers for another exciting school year!

Family Sessions Help Launch Virtual School Year

Parents and guardians joined us for the first information session to get ready for the 2020–21 school year. Because online learning is new for many families, and MPS wanted to help get the school year off to a great start. Some of the topics included in the session are the following:

- Explore our new virtual platforms.
- Learn about online tools students will use at home.
- Understand academic expectations.
- Discover family supports.
- Take part in a Google Classroom demonstration.



There is still one session available for parents to register:

Wednesday, September 2, 2020, 5:30–7:00 p.m.

Registration is required using this link: <https://tinyurl.com/MPSFamilyEngagement>

Families will receive login information after they register.

For more information, [download our flyer](#).

MPS Welcome Week and Freshman Bridge



Back-to-school time in MPS kicked off the week of August 3, 2020. We welcomed the rising class of 2024 and invited them to participate in Freshman Bridge. This year's Freshman Bridge included virtual tours, meeting school staff, team building, distribution of instructional materials, Chromebooks, school gear, and masks. Incoming kindergarten and sixth grade students were also welcomed to their schools during this week through individual school-based activities and outreach.

MPS Back-to School Spirit Week

MPS celebrated the start of the new school year by inviting students, families, and the community to take part in Welcome Back-to-School Spirit Week. During the week of August 10 to 14, school communities and fans of MPS had fun and shared their school spirit on social media. Each day of the week offered a different theme to promote creative activities:



- **Motivational Monday!** Individuals shared inspiring quotes and messages.
- **Show Your School Spirit!** School colors and clothing were featured in photos.
- **Welcome Wednesday!** Videos were posted highlighting excitement for the start of a new school year and welcoming students, staff, and friends back to school.
- **School Picture Day!** Throwback school pictures were shared.
- **What are you Looking Forward to Friday?** The last day of Welcome Back-to-School Spirit Week featured pictures and videos of the many things members of the MPS family are looking forward to for the 2020-21 school year.

MPS Begins the 2020-21 School Year – Day 1 for Early Start Calendar Schools

The 2020-21 school year got underway on August 17 with students engaging in virtual learning. MPS early start schools across the city, including all high schools, middle schools, and select elementary schools, were back in session. I welcomed students virtually at Milwaukee School of Languages, along with guests, and media. The school's principal, Dr. Juan Baez, and MTEA President Amy Mizialko also offered remarks to wish success to students and emphasize the importance of a quality education during the pandemic.

As a district, we are committed to providing a top-notch education. Our students have Chromebooks and our teachers are prepared for virtual learning. This plan will optimize the health and safety of our students and staff until we can all safely return to our schools.”

MPS schools on the [traditional calendar](#) (most elementary schools) will begin Tuesday, September 1. Families who have questions about start dates should contact their child's school. View all school calendars on the [Student Days Off web page](#).

Families are reminded to help their students be ready for learning.

- Pick up a Chromebook and instructional materials from your school.
- Charge your Chromebook and test your Internet connection.
- Pick up basic school supplies: pens, pencils, notebooks, paper.

- Find a quiet, comfortable place to work.
- Look for schedules provided by your school; be ready to log in for online learning.

Enrollment is still open! Visit mpsmke.com/enroll to learn more, contact an MPS school, or call the MPS enrollment hotline at (414) 267-5100.

Families: Connect Now to Receive Important News and Updates

Families are asked to connect now to get all important updates to be ready for the 2020-2021 school year.

- Students in early start schools started on August 17, 2020.
- Students in traditional calendar schools will begin September 1, 2020.
- [School calendars](#) and [a list of schools by start dates](#) are available on the MPS website.

Stay up-to-date by following MPS communications on multiple platforms

Students and families are encouraged to check daily for important news and changes.

Receive Text Messages from the District and your School Community

The district is using a new text messaging system that requires each user to opt-in. Text **Y** or **Yes** to 67587 to get all updates.

MPS App

For fast access to updates, download the MPS App. Use the links below or visit the app store on your device and search for MPS.

[iOS](#)
[Android](#)

Follow MPS on Social Media

Connect with us on [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#). Like our pages to see all our newest posts.

The [MPS website](#) is home to everything families need to know about the district.

MPS Central Services phone line: (414) 475-8393. Open Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

MPS Hotline: (414) 475-8900. Open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

For specific questions about your child or your school, contact your teacher or school leader by email.

Update Your Information: To make sure you receive all updates, please be sure your contact information is correct. Log in to the [Parent Portal](#) (Infinite Campus) to update your phone number and email address. **MPS is offering phone and email support for families who want to create a Parent Portal account and for those who have forgotten their username and/or password.**



Parent Portal Technical Support

Live Parent Portal phone and email support is available from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

To recover a username/password: Parents and guardians should email parentportal@milwaukee.k12.wi.us. Include the parent/guardian name, child's name, birthdate, and a contact number to assist you in resetting your Parent Portal account. If you do not receive a phone call or email within 24 hours, please call (414) 475-8159 for further assistance.

For assistance setting up a new Parent Portal account: Parents/guardians may call (414) 475-8159 or email parentportal@milwaukee.k12.wi.us.