



Superintendent's Report – August

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:



We celebrated the first day of school for students on the early start calendar at **Audubon Technology & Communication School!** It was an exciting morning welcoming students as they walked in on the red carpet. Between my staff and I, we managed to visit more than half of the schools on the early start calendar during the first week of school, and what we observed was lots of positive enthusiasm among staff and students, and lots of learning going on!

During August I met with partners, business and community leaders, and staff. I held introductory meetings with Milwaukee Police Chief **Alfonso Morales**, **Dan Bader** of Bader Philanthropies, and NAACP leaders **Fred Royal** and **Clarence Nicholas**. I also met with **Danae Davis**, Executive Director of Milwaukee Succeeds, State Superintendent **Dr. Tony Evers**, **Dr. Alan Shoho** (UW – Milwaukee), **Tim Sheehy** (MMAC), and Governor **Scott Walker**; and I attended the Milwaukee Community Schools Partnership Community Leadership Council meeting.



The three-day Leadership Institute for school leaders and their teams at North Division was held in the beginning of August. This year's theme, *Leading Ambitious Instruction*, set the tone for the 2018-19 school year by providing the

framework to propel us forward with a focus on core instruction in reading, writing, and mathematics. We received positive feedback from school leaders and staff. School teams were able to go back to their respective schools with specific skills and strategies, and confidently apply what was learned with the entire school community in order to improve teaching and learning.

At the invitation of **John Daniels** of Quarles and Brady, I was honored to attend the Fellowship luncheon. This was an incredible event that supports the MKE Fellows youth mentorship initiative.

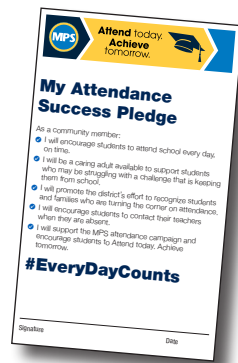


I held staff gatherings at various sites throughout the district with early start staff to celebrate the start of the school year and share information about the *Five Priorities for Success*. These have proven to be great opportunities to connect with staff and listen to their feedback. Next week I will begin staff gatherings with the traditional calendar staff!

EVENTS/PROGRAMS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

MPS kicks off attendance campaign

Milwaukee Public Schools kicked off its *Attend today. Achieve tomorrow.* campaign to emphasize the importance of attending school on time, every day. The campaign not only places positive attention on this important element of a child's education, it allows us to build on our prior successes in this area.



Daily student attendance is critical for skill development and academic achievement. When attendance is a priority, children receive better grades, develop healthy life habits, exhibit positive behaviors, and position themselves to graduate from high school prepared to compete globally as lifelong learners. Just by being present at school, a child has opportunities to collaborate and work with others, while learning valuable social skills and developing a broader world view.

Making regular school attendance a priority is one of the most important ways a child can be prepared for success — both in school and in life. We encourage our partners across the city of Milwaukee to join us in raising awareness about the importance of students attending school on time, every day.

When students are not in school, they cannot learn. Missing just a few days can add up, and the consequences for students are significant and reduce their chance for success in school and life, according to research from Attendance Works.

- ▶ Absenteeism in the first month of school can predict poor attendance throughout the school year. Students who miss two to four days in September are more likely to miss the equivalent of a month of school by the end of the school year.
- ▶ One in ten kindergarten and first-grade students are chronically absent (10 days absent or more). Poor attendance in these early years can influence whether children read proficiently by the end of third grade.
- ▶ Research shows that missing 10 percent of the school year, or about 17 days, negatively affects a student's academic performance.
- ▶ A student who misses 10 percent of school days per year has missed a full year of school by tenth grade



MPS Awarded Over \$3 Million in School Safety Grant Funding

Wisconsin Attorney General Brad Schimel announced that Milwaukee Public Schools will receive **\$3,308,665** from the first round of the Wisconsin Department of Justice (DOJ) School Safety Grant program. The MPS grant is one of 81 grants to schools and school districts throughout Wisconsin.

The school safety grant will allow for a series of professional development sessions and physical security enhancements. The project aligns directly with the Milwaukee Board of School Directors school safety resolution passed on March 22, 2018. Specific details about the enhancements that will be made with the funding will not be released to protect the integrity of district safety plans and the safety of our students, staff and visitors.

MPS intends to submit a proposal for the second round of grant funding from the School Safety Grant Program. The focus of the second round of funding is on advanced initiatives to bolster student mental health, the creation of local School Safety Intervention teams, and additional physical security upgrades. Those grants will be announced in October.



Volunteers from GE Healthcare rolled up their sleeves at local schools

Nearly **2,000 GE employees** and friends grabbed mops, rakes, and paintbrushes at local schools to make halls and classrooms shine for returning students. About a dozen MPS schools benefitted from scrubbing, landscaping, and painting thanks to the energetic volunteers.



At **Riverside University High School**, I welcomed volunteers from GE Healthcare's Ultrasound and Maternal Infant Care teams. The group created a Zen Den for students, built costume storage in the auditorium, cleaned trophy cases and white boards, painted rooms on the second floor, added a mural in the 4th floor stairwell, painted several inspirational quotes, and accomplished many more tasks throughout the day.

This was the **24th annual GE Community Service Day** that included greater Milwaukee, Wauwatosa, and Waukesha. Volunteers had fun getting out of the office and knowing that their day of work would benefit students all year long.

WISN Channel 12/Salvation Army Phone Bank – Backpack Donations

Dr. Keith P. Posley and Milwaukee Board of School Directors President Mark Sain took part in the **WISN Channel 12/Salvation Army Phone Bank** on Tuesday, August 21, 2018. Both leaders were interviewed by Channel 12 morning anchor Melinda Davenport. There was also a great support by MPS central staff as they worked the phone bank by answering calls from donors. This is the sixth year that MPS has been a recipient of the "Class Act" donation of stuffed backpacks. Each student at **Congress, Manitoba, 53rd Street** and **Forest Home Avenue** schools will receive a backpack this year. This is a gift valued at approximately \$70,000! Over the past 5 years, this event has provided MPS students with close to \$250,000 in school supplies!



DOING THE MOST GOOD

Vincent students exhibit animals at the Wisconsin State Fair

Most people aren't surprised to hear that MPS students attend the Wisconsin State Fair — but the fact that students are competing in the youth livestock show gets some attention. This year, students showed seven sheep and one heifer at the fair, marking the second year that **Vincent High School** has taken part in competition.

Vincent High School of Agricultural Sciences is the only school in Milwaukee County to offer an agriculture program, and allows students to work with sheep, cattle, a horse, and chickens. The school's extensive greenhouse is used to grow house plants and aloe, which is then used to produce lip balm and lotions.

Students have worked all summer to learn what is needed to raise a market lamb. They studied nutrition, health, breeding, and exercise for their animals. At the Wisconsin State Fair, six students exhibited their lambs in the Market Lamb Show. This year's lamb project started at the end of March, taking students to an auction in Columbus to select their lambs. Since then, the students have been working hard to get the sheep competition-ready.



The popular agriculture program at Vincent continues to grow. The school's beef program started in January — and the school gained media attention when its two heifers escaped the barn and went for a stroll down Brown Deer Road. The culmination of this year's beef program has one young man showing a heifer at the fair for the first time.

All seven students competed twice this year during the State Fair — once in a market class where animals are judged on their appearance; muscling, amount of fat, structure, and balance, and once for showmanship where the exhibitor is judged on their ability to effectively present their animal. One of the Vincent students, who will be a senior, plans to go to college at Texas A&M to be a veterinarian.



Awards/Recognition

Kimberly Beans, a third grader at Hartford Avenue University School, received a third-place trophy for her entry in the Mary Jo Nettesheim Memorial Literary and Illustrator Competition! Kimberly wrote and illustrated her story, *The Ice Cream Cone*, which was submitted by her teacher. Sponsored by Delta Kappa Gamma (DKG) International Society for Women Educators, the annual competition is open to students in grades 3 through 12 throughout Wisconsin.



Certificate of Achievement

MPS Comptroller LaWanda Baldwin and the entire MPS Financial Report Team have been awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR).

Update on Dr. Benjamin Carson Academy of Science

In October 2017, the Milwaukee Board of School Directors took action to direct the Administration to work with the Carson Academy school community to explore the renaming of the facility. The school has explored this option, and shared that they have decided that a name change will not be pursued at this time.

