



**MILWAUKEE
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**



Superintendent’s Report – December 2023

The Superintendent’s Report is designed to provide the Milwaukee Board of School Directors and the MPS community with an update on current activities under way 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.



Drumline Competition



The twenty-first year of the highly anticipated MPS Battle of the Drumlines showcased an electrifying display of talent, drawing an energetic and enthusiastic crowd representing all age groups. The event, which was held on December 9, unfolded with a series of gripping performances, surprising outcomes, and a thrilling finale that left spectators on the edge of their seats.

Hosted by Rufus King High School, this year’s competition welcomed a record number of participants, more than doubling the number of entries from last year.

Among the contenders were Bradley Tech High School, Milwaukee Marshall High School, and Rufus King High School junior varsity drumlines, and each brought their unique flair.

However, it was the reigning champions, the Rufus King High School drumline, that once again emerged victorious, securing their seventeenth Battle of the Drumlines title in a stunning display of skill and precision. Their victory was hard-fought—Rufus King narrowly surpassed Riverside University High School in the championship round by three-fourths of a point.



Adding an unexpected twist to the competition, the newcomer Washington School of Information and Technology delivered an impressive performance, managing to secure a tie for third place with Ronald Reagan College Preparatory High School in the initial round and thereby advancing to the fiercely contested championship round.



The event's success wasn't confined to the performers alone; it was also a testament to the enthusiastic engagement of the audience, with over 600 attendees filling the stands.



The increase of drumlines competing this year not only demonstrates student interest but also highlights schools' efforts to incorporate drumlines as a part of their music and after-school programs.

3DE by Junior Achievement



Earlier this year, [Junior Achievement Wisconsin](#) (JA), in collaboration with Milwaukee Public Schools, announced a million-dollar investment to pilot [3DE by JA](#) in two Milwaukee high schools: Bay View and Milwaukee Marshall.

MPS has now officially launched 3DE at both Bay View and Milwaukee Marshall High Schools and has held 3DE by JA induction ceremonies at each location, representing the strong partnership with each school and the unlimited possibilities with this program.

During the 2023–24 pilot program, all ninth-grade students at Bay View and Milwaukee Marshall High Schools will participate in the 3DE by JA innovation pilot. Each subsequent year, one grade level will be added until all four classes of students at the two high schools are participating in 3DE by JA. By the 2026–27 school year, this year's ninth graders will have had a full four years of collaboration with local business partners, and all students at the participating schools will be engaged in 3DE.

Recognizing MPS Talent



MPS has talent bursting at the seams with students and staff all around the district. Recently, Milwaukee High School of the Arts senior Dystince Robertson won a national jazz competition based in Arizona, becoming the first-ever winner of the Ravenscroft Jazz Prize for developing musicians ages 17 to 19. Read more at [MPS Senior Wins First Place in New National Competition, the Ravenscroft Jazz Prize.](#)

Milwaukee Italian Immersion teacher Enrica Fracchia-Miller won the 2023 Coccia-Inserra Award for Excellence and Innovation in the Teaching of Italian. The award recognizes a teacher at the K–12 level for their planning and dedication to the craft of teaching Italian. Read more at [Milwaukee Italian Immersion School Teacher Wins National Award for Her Work at MPS.](#)



Ronald Reagan College Preparatory High School student Isabella Switalski took sixth place at the recent WIAA state girls' cross-country championship, where she demonstrated her personal best time. Isabella is the first girl from MPS to place in the top 10 since 1976. Read more at [Reagan Cross-Country Runner's Top 10 Finish at State Is First in 47 Years for an MPS Girl.](#)

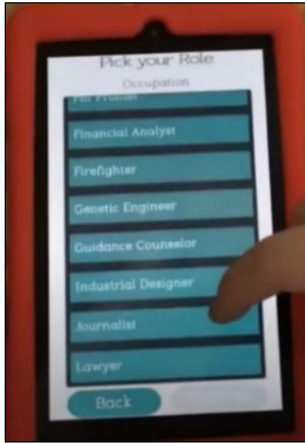
Fifteen MPS schools were involved in creating 15 murals and a welcome sign for display at this year's eightieth annual Holiday Folk Fair International at the Wisconsin State Fair Park:

- Academia de Lenguaje y Bellas Artes (ALBA) – Puerto Rico
- Bay View High School – India
- Bradley Technology and Trade School – United States
- Doerfler School – Native American
- Escuela Vieau – Nicaragua
- Golda Meir School – Hmong
- La Escuela Fratney – Mexico
- Maryland Avenue Montessori School – Ireland
- Milwaukee High School of the Arts – Japan
- Milwaukee Marshall High School – Italy (Sicily) and a Holiday Folk Fair welcome sign
- Morgandale School – Rohingya
- North Division High School – Pakistan
- Rogers Street Academy – Dominican Republic
- South Division High School – Honduras
- Walt Whitman School – Nigeria



[View the beautiful murals created by MPS students.](#) Our staff and students make us MPS Proud.

Reality Check Day



On December 13, seniors engaged in Reality Check Day, an acclaimed financial literacy event hosted by Educators Credit Union. This immersive experience spans 90 minutes and delivers an interactive simulation that vividly portrays for students the realities of life after high school, providing invaluable insights into adult responsibilities and financial management.

Students engaged with life's pivotal stages and financial ups and downs through the immersive Bite of Reality mobile app. Throughout the session, they navigated a spectrum of life circumstances—from choosing their occupation to dealing with randomly assigned factors such as credit scores, marital status, and potential child support obligations. Tasked with setting their retirement age, students honed their budgeting prowess to achieve this milestone.

At various stations representing life events, students handled expenses related to housing, insurance, groceries, clothing, furniture, entertainment, and day care essentials. They paid bills and made purchases, and the costs of items were constantly updated to mirror real local prices, ensuring a true-to-life experience. The Wheel of Fate added an element of unpredictability, allowing students to gain or lose money due to unforeseen life events.

This semester, there was a remarkable turnout, with close to 700 students actively participating. This hands-on approach equips our students with invaluable financial skills and nurtures their journey toward financial success.

Resources for the Season

MPS and our partners work continuously and collaboratively to support the needs of children and families. During the winter season, these partnerships and collaborations are even more critical, which is why we are highlighting resources for the season. We encourage everyone to share this list of resources and programs with families. Information is available for emergency shelter, food assistance, clothing, social services, and toys for the holidays.



For the full list of resources, visit [Winter Resources and Programs in the Milwaukee Area](#).

Kindergarten Enrollment Fair



The MPS Kindergarten Enrollment Fair is coming February 3, 2024! We believe that it is never too early to begin recruiting families to enroll their children in MPS. Families with children turning three, four, or five by September 1, 2024, can begin enrollment on February 3, 2024, at this year's Kindergarten Enrollment Fair, which will be held at Milwaukee School of the Arts, 2300 West Highland Avenue, Milwaukee, 53222.

The fair helps families explore schools, learn about available programs, identify the best options, and ask questions to help ensure that they are comfortable and confident about their school choices. Additionally, families will have the chance to speak directly with school staff and get help filling out enrollment forms. Interpreters will be available.

For questions about enrollment or the fair, families may call 414-475-8159 or visit mpsmke.com/enrolltoday.