

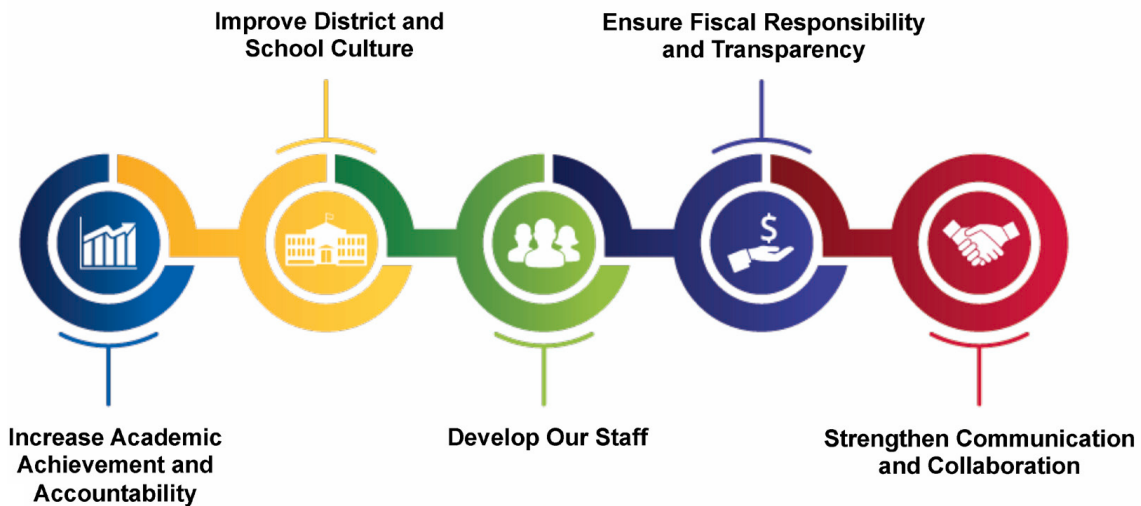


**MILWAUKEE
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**



Superintendent's Report – August 2021

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.



It was a busy summer with a great deal of preparation and events to prepare for the 2021-2022 school year reopening. This included providing families with information on important resources such as the vaccine clinics the district is sponsoring, transportation services, high school athletics and enrollment opportunities. The district collaborated with the Milwaukee Health Department to hold Back to School Health Fairs at Obama SCTE and the South Side Health Center. Community vaccine sites were open earlier in the summer at North Division, South Division, and Roosevelt Creative Arts Middle School.

In its seventh year, the Department of Student Services continued canvassing efforts to facilitate outreach and communication to families throughout Milwaukee with the objective of enrolling students in Milwaukee Public Schools. During summer 2021, canvassers participated in over 20 community events. Applications were collected for new students, with over 150 identified during this process.

There was also a great deal of preparation behind the scenes, including our New Educator Institute designed to onboard and welcome those teachers new to the district and a number of staff recruitment events and initiatives. The Office of Human Resources worked diligently toward fully staffing our schools. This included a strong presence at over 20 community events this summer

seeking a diverse staff looking to make a positive impact in the lives of our students in every classroom, for every student, every day.

2021 Freshman Bridge

Freshman Bridge for summer 2021 had nearly 2,000 freshman participate in academic and social emotional learning activities to help them start high school on a positive note. Freshman bridge was held on August 5 and 6, 2021, at all of the schools that have grade 9. The goal of the Freshman Bridge program is to get students excited about the school year and to begin developing a sense of community within their school, relationships with staff and peers, and strategies that will contribute to their high school success prior to the start of the 2021-22 school year. In addition, nine schools invited sophomores to engage in a one-day bridge program to become acclimated to their new surroundings, as some had never been at their high school due to the pandemic. Sophomores had the opportunity to meet their teachers, counselors, and classmates in preparation for the new school year.

MPS Schools Welcome Students Back for In-person Learning

MPS early start schools across the city, including all high schools, middle schools, and connected elementary schools, were back in session on August 16. MPS is returning to full-time in-person learning for the 2021–22 school year.

MacDowell Montessori rolled out the red carpet on August 16 for students returning to in-person learning. Students and families were welcomed by Superintendent Dr. Keith P. Posley, Milwaukee Board of School Directors President Bob Peterson, Mayor Tom Barrett, County Executive David Crowley, Sheriff Earnell Lucas, MTEA President Amy Mizialko, district administrators, and other elected officials and partners. Children were excited to return to school, see their teachers and friends, and get ready for hands-on learning.



Principal Andrea Corona welcomed guests and families. Dr. Posley emphasized the importance of returning to classrooms for academic learning and mental wellness, and also outlined strategies to keep students and staff safe and healthy as the pandemic continues. The district has expanded COVID-19 mitigation measures that began in spring, which include maximizing ventilation, electronic HEPA filtration units throughout buildings, hand sanitizing stations, frequent hand washing, physical distancing, and wearing of face masks by students and staff.

“I’m very excited to welcome students and staff back into our buildings,” said Dr. Posley. “Our teams have worked very hard to ensure safety and to make sure students receive all the supports they need. This is an important school year and we are committed to helping all students achieve.”

MacDowell Montessori is one of seven Montessori schools in MPS, and is the only K3-12th grade public Montessori school in the nation. Montessori education is based in hands-on learning and allows

children to work at their own pace. MacDowell Montessori is located at 6415 W. Mount Vernon Avenue. For more information about Montessori schools in MPS, visit the [MPS Montessori web page](#).

MPS schools on the traditional calendar (most elementary schools) will begin Thursday, September 2. Families who have questions about start dates should contact their child's school.

Enrollment is still open! Visit mpsmke.com/enroll to learn more, or visit MPS Central Services for in-person registration.

MPS Return to the Classroom Family Guide will Help Families Get Ready for School

MPS has created a *Return to the Classroom Family Guide* with important information about returning to in-person learning this fall. Get information about health and safety procedures, COVID-19 mitigation strategies, ways to keep students safe, and other important updates in schools.

The district recommends that all families read the guide before the first day of school. This publication will answer many questions about school procedures and the preparations the district has taken to enhance the safety of students and staff.

[The book is currently available on the MPS Roadmap to Readiness website](#) in English under the Quick Links section. Translations in Arabic, Burmese, Hmong, Karen, Rohingya, Somali, and Spanish will be added soon.

Get ready for a successful school year — check out the *Family Guide* today!

Students Follow Pathways to Complete Credits and Graduate From High School

Milwaukee Public Schools honored more than 100 students who completed graduation requirements over the summer and earned the right to wear a cap and gown. MPS summer sessions and alternative programs provided critical opportunities to ensure students could graduate and move on to college and career. A summer graduation ceremony recognizing their accomplishments was held July 31, 2021, at South Division High School. About 95 students attended.

By offering both a June Session and a July Session this summer, MPS increased the opportunities for students to graduate. This summer, students could earn a total of two credits by enrolling in two classes in both sessions. Intensive outreach to students attracted those who could directly benefit from accelerated or recovery options. Offerings led to large enrollment and student success.

Students wore their school colors and accepted their diplomas from their own school principals at the large ceremony that included family and friends.

MPS is proud to send these students on their personal journeys ready for college and career.

If you know a high school student who needs support to be on track for graduation, learn more about [Alternative Education Programs](#) in MPS.



Register for the 14th Annual MPS Run Back to School!

Celebrate the start of the 2021-22 school year with Milwaukee Recreation at the 14th annual [MPS Run Back to School!](#)

Join us for this 5K run/1.5-mile walk through Washington Park. Proceeds support MPS wellness and youth recreation programs.

Event Information

- Date: Saturday, August 28, 2021
- Start Time: 9:00 a.m.
- Start & Finish Line: Wick Playfield (park in the lot next door, behind the MPS Central Services building: 5225 W. Vliet St.)
- Cost: \$5 for youth/\$15 for adults (\$20 for adults after Aug. 12)
- Mobile Vaccine Clinic will be onsite
- [Register Here!](#)

Fee includes an event t-shirt and race bag.

Following the success of the 2020 Virtual Challenge, this year's event will feature several virtual elements in the lead-up to the in-person race! Registrants can join Milwaukee Recreation's [Wellness Community Facebook Group](#) to participate in the challenges, post photos, and join the conversation with fellow participants!

Schools Can Receive up to \$1,000 in Grants by Forming a RBTS Team!



Make sure you rally your team for the MPS Run Back to School race and apply for a grant for your school!

Not only will you help kick off the 2021-22 school year with hundreds of local MPS supporters, school communities with at least **25 registered participants are eligible for a \$500 grant** to support a sport or wellness need in their school! The school with the **most registered participants is eligible for a \$1,000 grant** to support a sport or wellness need in their school! Anyone from the community can join

a school team. After the race, school teams who met the minimum participant requirement will need to fill out a form that states how the funds will be used in order to receive the grant.

In the past, schools have used the grant funds for:

- new gym and sports equipment
- new uniforms
- sports registration fees
- rental of the [Wacky Wheels Skate Van](#) for its students

Nominate a team captain for your school and start your team today! (To sign up for a team, make sure you specify your school during the registration process after you add the race to your cart.)