

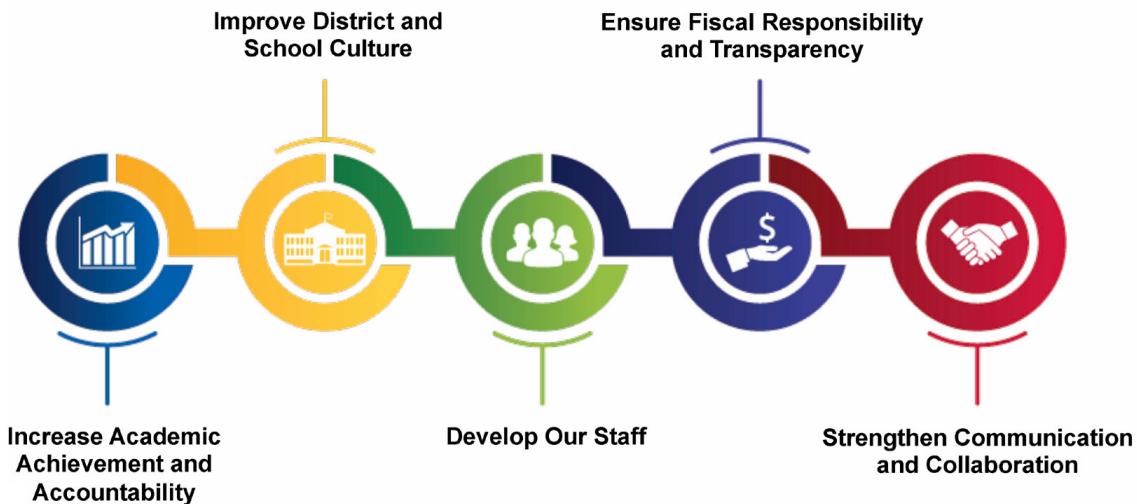


**MILWAUKEE
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**



Superintendent’s Report – April 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 COVID-19 Update

Responding to the COVID-19 pandemic has required a phased approach on the part of Milwaukee Public Schools for practicality and efficiency. Implementation has included the following:

- Establishing 20 Stop, Grab, and Go sites throughout the city to distribute healthy meals and instructional materials
- Developing educational resources including online learning opportunities
- Supporting high school students with credit attainment and graduation requirements
- Facilitating planning efforts to connect school staff with students

District leadership will continue these phased efforts and build upon them as this fluid situation unfolds.

Stay Updated About News and Learning Through Multiple MPS Channels!

News is changing rapidly and everyone has questions during the coronavirus pandemic. Stay up to date and help your child keep learning by following MPS communications on multiple channels. The [MPS website](#) is home to everything families need to know about the district. In addition, the [MPS COVID-19 Updates](#) page carries all recent messages sent to families plus Frequently Asked

Questions, locations for meal distribution, cancelled events, and more.

For fast access to news and the entire MPS website, download the MPS App, available for Apple and Android smartphone platforms. To download, use the links below.

[iOS](#)

[Android](#)

Follow MPS on social media! The district posts frequent updates on [Facebook](#), [Linkedin](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#). Like our pages to see all our newest posts.

The district is sending updates to families by phone, text message, and email. Information changes quickly, so please be alert for calls and messages from the district and be sure to listen to or read the complete message to avoid missing important details.

MPS Virtual Spirit Week is April 13 to 17



Students are staying safe at home, but school spirit is underway! During the week of April 13 to 17, MPS students are having fun and showing school spirit on social media. Each day of the week offers a different theme so students can plan a week of lively activities. Students and families are reminded to stay safe and maintain social distancing while taking part in their activities.

We want to see your spirit! Post your photos and videos using the hashtags #MPSspiritweek and #MPSproud, tag MPS in your social media posts, or email your photos and videos to comm@milwaukee.k12.wi.us Be sure to include your name and the name of your school. Have fun and keep learning!

Spirit Week Daily Themes

Monday—Show Us Your Talent! Post pictures or a video as you play an instrument, read poetry, sing, perform an athletic skill, display your artwork, or share another talent.

Tuesday—Keep on Moving! Show us how you are staying active. Post pictures walking, doing yoga, working out, or playing a game or sport.

Wednesday—What Are You Reading Wednesday? Post a picture or selfie reading your favorite book.

Thursday—Share Kindness! Share some caring or inspiring words or a kind act to support family, friends, teachers, school staff, or essential workers.

Friday—Show Your School Spirit! Post photos wearing your school's colors and/or clothing.

MHSA Vocal Ensemble Featured in PBS Documentary



Catch some fresh musical entertainment on TV featuring MPS students! “Acapocalypse! A Cappella’s New Note” explores the national two-day Acapocalypse festival hosted by Port Washington High School. Directors chose three award-winning groups to follow, including the Milwaukee High School of the Arts Vocal Jazz Ensemble.

The 13 group members, along with Director Raymond Roberts, spent about four months interviewing, performing, and taping for the production of this in-depth look at the preparation and perfection involved as an a capella group. At MHSA, Vocal Jazz Ensemble meets during the school day as part of the music curriculum, but requires a commitment outside of class time for performances and competitions. The group has won numerous awards and is a regular favorite on the annual WISN-12 Season to Celebrate holiday program.

The documentary draws out the hard work and technical skill involved in a capella performance, and also brings forth the impact on students. MHSA vocalists expressed their love of music and performance and the ways that musical discipline improves their schoolwork and connection to others. Students shared the camaraderie of being part of such a close-knit group and the support they offer each other.

Because student participation in the documentary ended in March 2019, nine members of the ensemble have since graduated. Six are currently studying music (three at Columbia College in Chicago and three at the School for Music Vocations in Iowa). One is studying film at UW–Milwaukee, one is attending MATC, and one is engaged in service learning with City Year.

To watch a preview of the documentary, visit the [PBS Wisconsin Music and Arts page](#). The program aired on PBS Wisconsin on March 31, 2020. PBS Wisconsin does not broadcast in the Milwaukee area, but the program can be viewed on demand at pbswisconsin.org and on the PBS app on phones, tablets, Roku, Apple TV, and many smart TVs. Search for “Acapocalypse” to find access. Congratulations to the MHSA Vocal Jazz Ensemble!

