



**MILWAUKEE  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**



## Superintendent’s Report – September 2022

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.



## Day One Kickoff Starts the Traditional Start School Year at AAL



The Academy of Accelerated Learning rolled out the red carpet on September 6, 2022, as thousands of excited students returned to nearly 100 MPS schools. Principal Eric Rian welcomed guests and families at the Day One kickoff. Special guests welcoming and cheering on students as they arrived included Superintendent Dr. Keith P. Posley, Governor Tony Evers, Lieutenant Governor Mandela Barnes, State Superintendent Jill Underly, Milwaukee Board of School Directors President Bob

Peterson, Director Marcela Garcia, Director Henry Leonard, Director Erika Siemsen, County Executive David Crowley, Milwaukee Teachers’ Education Association President Amy Mizialko, Administrators and Supervisors Council Executive Director Steven Lubar, City Year Senior Vice President/Executive Director Dr. Stephanie Maney-Hartlaub, district administrators, state officials, and guests.

Children were excited to see their teachers and friends, start a fresh school year, and get ready for hands-on learning. Families watched the excitement, waved good-bye to children, and even shed a few tears as their little ones started a new adventure.

“Our teachers and staff have been prepared with professional development and are ready to deliver Ambitious Instruction again this year,” said Dr. Posley. “We have high expectations and want every student to achieve their personal best.”



Everyone was excited and full of energy, anticipating the wonderful year of learning that lies ahead for our students.

## **M-Cubed and Milwaukee Public Schools**

Milwaukee Public Schools continues to build connections with Milwaukee Area Technical College (MATC) and the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee (UWM) through the M<sup>3</sup> (M-Cubed) partnership. This partnership is another collaboration developed to provide students with more opportunities that will help impact their future successes. Currently, M<sup>3</sup> has 12 active projects focused on three overarching goals.

- Connected learning:
  - Academic and career planning (ACP) – focused on building and supporting students’ ACPs
  - English, math, and science pathways – creating curriculum alignment across kindergarten through college
  - Teaching and learning – bringing faculty from all three institutions together to improve teaching practices
- Supporting transitions:
  - Transition program Smart Start – providing support to MPS students as they transition to MATC and UWM
  - College Connections – dual-enrollment program with general, education, and nursing pathways
  - Concurrent enrollment – expanding dual-enrollment across all three institutions
  - Milwaukee Parent Institute – empowering families to support their children’s success
- Driving completion:
  - Financial support – increasing FAFSA completion, financial aid, and scholarships so that students can access college
  - Work-based learning – creating work-based and experiential learning, including internships across institutions

We look forward to more students participating each year and want to make the 2022–23 school year the most successful to date.

## Open House and Spirit Week across the District

As we welcomed students and families back to school this fall, schools hosted a variety of family-engaging open houses that afforded families a chance to receive books, participate in activities and games, meet their mascot, visit the school carnival, receive a flu shot, eat popcorn and snacks, and most importantly visit classrooms and meet the staff while receiving information for academic success and school expectations.

To help students adjust to the school year and student community, schools participated in spirit week from September 12 to 16. Schools had themed days that may have included crazy socks, bad hair, backwards, school color, jersey, or best homeroom participation day. Spirit week allows students an opportunity to get into the spirit of school while keeping focus of their academic program.

All schools will host a spring open house and spirit day. So, rest assured, if you missed the fall activities or had so much fun that you want to do it again, schools will be preparing all winter for their spring events. Check individual school home pages for more information.

## Ronald Reagan and Washington High Schools Break Ground



Reagan High School will soon begin work on expansions to the school and athletic facilities. MPS hosted a ground-breaking ceremony on September 7, 2022, to unveil the upcoming projects to neighbors, media, and the community.

The many improvements are divided into three phases. With funding secured through MPS ESSER funds, MPS Recreation, school fundraising, and private philanthropy, Phase I construction is ready to begin. The school and the district will continue their efforts to secure funds for Phases II and III.

Phase I	Phase II	Phase III
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Science wing addition with labs</li> <li>• Gymnasium addition, including hardwood floor, bleachers, audio system, and more</li> <li>• New team locker rooms</li> <li>• Large lobby, concessions stand, and bathrooms</li> <li>• Six tennis courts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fitness center addition</li> <li>• Construction of soccer field and two additional tennis courts</li> <li>• Storage space, parking lot, and stormwater management</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construction of field house with turf athletic field</li> </ul>

Washington High School hosted a ground-breaking ceremony on September 8, 2022, to begin work on the replacement of the existing track and athletic field. Community members and the media were on hand to kick off the construction. Milwaukee Public Schools, Common Ground, and the Milwaukee Public Schools Foundation have forged a partnership to finance the project and bring these exciting improvements to the community.



**Project highlights include the following:**

- Installation of a new synthetic turf play field suitable for football and soccer practice
- Green infrastructure underground stormwater retention system below the turf play field
- Installation of a new practice running/walking track with a rubberized surface
- Construction of a new storage shed
- Installation of two new basketball half-courts
- Practice area for running long jump

Slated improvements are made possible by fundraising efforts of Common Ground, the MPS Foundation, and numerous grants and funding sources.

MPS administration, staff, and students are grateful to those who worked hard at fundraising and for the generous donations of community members who will make these projects possible. Students, families, and staff are excited to see these projects get under way. The renovations will provide dedicated spaces for student athletes to train and compete.