



**MILWAUKEE  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**



## Superintendent's Report – November

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 eight strategic objectives:



**Close the GAP**



**Re-envision Partnerships**



**Educate the Whole Child**



**Strengthen Communication  
Systems & Outreach  
Strategies**



**Redefine the MPS Experience**



**Develop Our Workforce**



**Rethink High Schools**



**Improve Organizational  
Processes**

Meetings from late October through mid-November follow.

I attended the United Way cabinet meeting and gave a *Season of Caring* report, highlighting the employer volunteerism experience and future volunteer opportunities. The MPS Combined Giving Campaign is up to **\$211,335.05** and all of the envelopes are not even in yet (and donations are still rolling in online)!



I held a conference call to finalize preparations for the **Alliance for Excellent Education** webinar that I'll be presenting as one of the panelists, to discuss "How Milwaukee Public Schools is Leveraging National Service to Improve Low-Performing Schools."

At the invitation of **Aldерwoman Chantia Lewis**, I visited Vincent High School and participated in a video shoot with the Alderwoman, our high school students, the Milwaukee Bucks, and other community leaders, with an emphasis on the positive things that are happening in the 9th District, including our top MPS education programs in that district.

I toured the **Journey House** with their CEO, Dr. Michele Bria and Board Chair, Gene Manzanet. After the tour, I attended the Professional Dimensions' *Women Who Inspire* luncheon where Maureen O'Brien was the keynote.



I was at the University Club with the Gig Group, where I hosted an open conversation with Marianne Lubar, Vice President of Arts for the **Wisconsin Academy Board of Directors** about the “Realities of Racism in Milwaukee” facilitated by Maurice Thomas, Founder and Executive Director of Milwaukee Excellence Charter School. There was a great turnout with thoughtful discussions that will hopefully lead to an intentional path forward.



I was the keynote presenter at the 2017 *United Way Ready. Set. Work!* Milwaukee Women’s Job Seminar where I spoke on the strength of women’s leadership.



I presented at the **MENTOR** Greater Milwaukee Funder’s convening meeting with Mayor Tom Barrett and Milwaukee Bucks President Peter Feigin as we discussed plans towards launching MENTOR Greater Milwaukee, a local affiliate of the National MENTOR Network. After the meeting, we gathered to debrief and discuss next steps.

I attended the **15th Annual Foro Latino Forum**, a Special Education Family Forum for families with children receiving special education services with MPS, at **South Division High School**. This was a great opportunity to connect with our families and also to bring them together for workshops, resources, and networking around Special Education issues and advocacy.



I participated in a webinar panel discussion entitled *Partnering for Success: How Milwaukee Public Schools Is Leveraging National Service to Improve Low-Performing Schools* with Meralis Hood, Jeff Jablow and Kayla Stephan of City Year Milwaukee, and Edie Turnball from College Possible Milwaukee. The webinar addressed how school districts can leverage national service like AmeriCorps to implement their plans for evidence-based school improvement under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). City Year and College Possible are two examples of effective school improvement partners under ESSA.

I also gave remarks at **53rd Street School** for the NBA Math Hoops event. Another great opportunity for our students, thanks to the support of our partners.



I spoke at our Warm Up to Winter event at **Doerfler School**. This is our sixth year for this partnership with the Milwaukee Fire Department and MPS. By the end of the week, more than 3,000 brand new winter coats will have been distributed to MPS students. Including this year, students at 50 schools will have received coats as part of this program.

## Events/Programs/Announcements

### *Fusion Fest showcases high-tech physics work*

**Bay View High School** hosted industry professionals and representatives from prestigious institutions such as Illinois State University, MIT, Princeton University, University of Wisconsin–Madison, the Contemporary Physics Education Project, and General Atomics. Fusion Fest was held to allow attendees to interact with students who showcased their work about plasma, gamma radiation, X-rays, TV and radio, UV radiation, and fusion science.

Physics professors from MIT and Princeton made presentations on the topic of fusion. The Milwaukee Fire Department Hazmat team also performed outdoor demonstrations following the event. Bay View High School emphasizes an art, design and engineering curriculum that prepares students for the rigors of college



and the demands of highly technical career fields. Events like Fusion Fest expand students' scientific reach and help prepare them for high-demand careers. Immersive science experiences align with the MPS Eight Big Ideas strategy to promote student achievement

### Ukrainian educators visit two MPS schools

Two MPS schools hosted educators from Ukraine in October as part of a program to exchange thoughts and ideas about education. **Washington High School of Information Technology** received six Ukrainian visitors to observe a Milwaukee high school in action. The group also spent a day at **Albert E. Kagel School** to observe bilingual education in a south side neighborhood.

The exchange was made possible through the Open World program, an international exchange supported by the U.S. Congress. MPS student ambassadors, teachers and principals embraced the opportunities for leadership, fellowship and demonstration of culinary arts and bilingual programs. The interaction proved valuable for breaking down stereotypes, enhancing cultural understanding and forging relationships.

Cultural exchanges align with MPS' Eight Big Ideas to promote student achievement. Open dialogues are beneficial for exploring ideas and sharing successes that ultimately lead to student success.



### German band Einshoch6 performs at Milwaukee School of Languages



Students from 15 area schools visited **Milwaukee School of Languages** to experience a concert by the German band Einshoch6. The band, based in Munich, Germany, is touring the Midwest and Eastern U.S. for a total of 18 concerts, including the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. The Milwaukee concert provided a unique opportunity for students enrolled in German language courses to hear German music performed by native speakers.

Einshoch6 is known for its unique blend of hip-hop and classical music that is especially engaging for youth. The current tour, called German Hip Hop meets Classical, is a project of the Deutsche Welle, Germany's international broadcaster, to foster the study of German. The band's recent album includes an ode to "Deutschlehrerinnen" (German Teachers) and was created in cooperation with German teachers and learners around the world.



### Washington opens new culinary arts lab

**Washington High School** celebrated the opening of its new culinary arts lab with a ribbon cutting ceremony on November 16. Community partners, donors and culinary arts volunteers toured the new space and enjoyed gourmet refreshments prepared by students. About 60 guests and dignitaries attended the event.

The MPS culinary arts program is now in its second year. Using a national curriculum called ProStart that was developed by the National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation, students take part in a two-year program that prepares them for careers and further education in the restaurant and hospitality sector. Across the country, culinary arts jobs are in high demand.



The ProStart program has been implemented in four MPS schools: Bay View, James Madison Academic Campus, Vincent High School, and Washington. This year, 478 students are enrolled in the program.



Students participate in three classroom sessions and two labs every week. During labs, volunteer chef mentors from across the city work with students to fine-tune skills, answer questions about the industry, and help students develop a professional demeanor for future employment.

Thanks to generous donors and community support, the new culinary arts lab is equipped with commercial-grade equipment so students can learn and work on the same kinds of equipment that local chefs work with every day. Major donors include the **Barbara Ann Stein Charitable Trust, Herb Kohl Philanthropies, Brewers Community Foundation, Aurora Health Care, Herd-Barber Charitable Fund, U.S. Bank, and Irgens.** Jennifer and Joe Bartolotta of the **Bartolotta Restaurant Group** have played a major role in promoting the program and attracting chef mentors.



## Awards/Recognition

### *College and Resource Fair attracts nearly 2,000 students*

The **University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee** union was flooded with middle and high school students from across MPS during the **Fresh Coast Classic College and Resource Fair**. Arriving on buses from their individual schools, students had the chance to gather materials and speak to representatives from dozens of public and private colleges, including several Historically Black Colleges and Universities.



The event included workshop sessions on college and career readiness. High school juniors received tours of the UWM campus. The day culminated in a session with remarks from Dr. Joan Prince, UWM's Vice Chancellor for the Division of Global Inclusion and Engagement, and Ruth Maegli, MPS Chief of the Office of Academics.

Six scholarships of \$1,000 each were presented to MPS students who applied through an MPS College and Career Center. Out of 61 entries, winners were:

- ▶ Ke'Von Hamilton, Golda Meir High School
- ▶ Dawt lang, South Division High School
- ▶ Cameron LeFlore, Rufus King International High School
- ▶ LaDae'meona McDowell, Hamilton High School
- ▶ Trinity Riley, Rufus King International High School
- ▶ Jaymes Warrior, Barack Obama SCTE

