



**MILWAUKEE  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**



## Superintendent’s Report – September 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.



## MPS Day One Traditional Start Kickoff



On Tuesday, September 5, community stakeholders, parents, state officials, school leaders, and MPS staff gathered at Maryland Avenue Montessori School to welcome students and kick off the traditional-start school calendar. As students arrived, the audience greeted them with enthusiasm and cheers, setting a positive tone for the start of the students’ academic year.

Students and parents alike exhibited eagerness and a hint of bashfulness as they were greeted. Adding to the festive atmosphere, members of the Riverside University High School band performed musical selections as the students and parents entered the premises.

Among the distinguished guests in attendance were Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers and Wisconsin State Superintendent Dr. Jill Underly who took the opportunity to personally welcome the students of Milwaukee Public Schools to the 2023–24 school year.



Following the spirited reception of students, guests accepted an invitation to explore the amazing classrooms and warm atmosphere that Maryland Avenue Montessori School has to offer. Following the indoor tour of classrooms, guests took a stroll through the beautiful garden planted and cared for by the students of Maryland Avenue Montessori School.

## Backpack and Supply Giveaways

This year, the MPS Department of Strategic Partnerships and Customer Service collaborated closely with the community and local businesses to ensure a successful start to the school year for MPS students by providing essential supplies. Support from Educators Credit Union, the Milwaukee Public Schools Foundation, United Way, Sleepover for Education, Burlington Coat Factory, and other contributing partnerships have provided filled backpacks for 80 MPS schools.

Also, the Salvation Army and WISN-TV and its viewers joined forces to provide filled backpacks to students, as they have done for the past 10 years through their Class Act School Supply Drive. This year's supply drive benefited 1,400 students from seven MPS schools. The campaign raised an impressive \$55,451, enabling the purchase of over 2,200 filled backpacks. Over the past decade, this initiative has collected over \$500,000 to benefit students in the Milwaukee area.

Backpacks from all partners were filled with essential school supplies such as pens, pencils, paper, notepads, and more.

## U.S. Department of Education Visits MPS in Recognition of STEM



The U.S. Department of Education Deputy Secretary Cindy Marten and U.S. Congresswoman Gwen Moore visited MPS schools on September 8 to gain firsthand insight into MPS's innovative expansion of its STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) curricula, which has been made possible through federal funding.

The visit was a show of support of the Department of Education's 2023 initiative "Raise the Bar: Lead the World," which helps school districts to accelerate learning and provide a rigorous education to all students.

During the visit, Deputy Secretary Cindy Marten and U.S. Congresswoman Gwen Moore toured Riverside University High School, where they engaged in a meaningful discussion with students enrolled in the Project Lead the Way Biomedical Innovations class. The two leaders commended the students for their innovative thinking and resilience, encouraging them to persist in their pursuit of academic and career goals. Following their remarks, Deputy Secretary Marten and Congresswoman Moore answered students' questions. In addition, Deputy Secretary Marten also visited the GE Innovation Labs at Audubon School.

In addressing the Milwaukee-area media, Deputy Secretary Marten applauded MPS for its dedicated efforts in the realm of STEM education. Deputy Secretary Marten stated, "Milwaukee Public Schools leadership and educators are Raising the Bar in providing equitable, relevant, rigorous, and joyful STEM learning by investing their American Rescue Plan relief funds in cutting-edge STEM learning tools, lab equipment, and teacher professional development. I commend Superintendent Posley and his team for investing in STEM resources because all students should know they belong in STEM." Marten went on to say, "Because all students, regardless of their ZIP code, deserve to receive high-quality STEM education that equips them with the skills and knowledge to dream big and ensures their career readiness and global competitiveness."

## **Browning School Receives U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools Award**

Browning Elementary School has received national attention recently for its sustainability dedication. The U.S. Department of Education presented Browning Elementary School with the "U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools: Effective Environmental and Sustainability Education" award, recognizing Browning for its development of civic engagement knowledge and skills and for its students' application of such knowledge to address sustainability and environmental issues.



Browning Elementary School was one of only 26 schools across the nation honored for its steadfast commitment to sustainable environmental practices and the seamless integration of these practices into its educational curriculum. To celebrate this achievement, members of the Browning Elementary School staff journeyed to Washington, DC, to accept the award at a special ceremony.

The recognized activities that contributed to this award include the following:

- Active participation in the Walking School Bus program
- The revitalization of the school's greenhouse, complete with the installation of an aquaponics system

- The installation of a video system within the greenhouse
- The cultivation of partnerships to instruct both students and staff in sustainable programming
- The installation of water bottle refilling stations and a stormwater vault beneath the former playground
- Thoughtful landscaping that incorporates native plants to enhance the school’s environmental sustainability efforts

[Read the U.S. Department of Education’s full story.](#)

## MPS Celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month



National Hispanic Heritage Month, observed from September 15 through October 15, is a significant period during which many Latin American nations commemorate their independence. Additionally, it is a time for individuals with roots in Spain, Latin America, Central America, Mexico, or the Caribbean to celebrate their cultural heritage.

MPS is actively participating in honoring the rich culture and invaluable contributions of Hispanic and Latino communities. Festivities are set to unfold district-wide and within individual schools. The most prominent celebration is scheduled for October 7 at South Division High School, located at 1515 West Lapham Boulevard. This event is open to all members of the MPS community and offers a fantastic opportunity to explore Hispanic cultural displays, enjoy student music and dance performances, engage with community vendors, and partake in children’s games organized by Milwaukee Recreation. For further details, please reach out to Ms. Gonzales at [gonzals1@milwaukee.k12.wi.us](mailto:gonzals1@milwaukee.k12.wi.us).

## MPS High School Enrollment Fair

The MPS High School Enrollment Fair is currently in progress, and it is expected to draw significant participation given the high number of over 4,000 eighth graders applying for high school placements for the 2024–25 school year.

Eighth graders initially had the opportunity to explore school options and seek answers to their questions during the week of September 18. Subsequently, parents were encouraged to talk with school representatives on Saturday, September 23, at North Division High School between 9:00 a.m. and noon.



Student enrollment officially commenced online on Saturday, September 23, and will remain open until Tuesday, October 31.

With a diverse array of more than two dozen high schools, many of which offer specialized programs, MPS offers something to cater to every student's interests and aspirations. It is important to note that students who submit their applications by the October 31 deadline during this early enrollment period enhance their probability of securing a placement in their preferred school of choice.

Among the available programs and opportunities are Advanced Placement courses, dual enrollment, arts, culinary and nursing certifications, engineering, agriculture, skilled trades, bilingual and language immersion programs, and much more, ensuring that there is a suitable educational path for every student.

## MPS 20th Annual Foro Latino



Staff is prepared to receive families on September 23 between 8:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. at South Division High School for the twentieth annual Foro Latino event.

Foro Latino is an MPS initiative that provides valuable information and resources for the benefit of families with children receiving special education services in Milwaukee Public Schools. Foro Latino will be presented in English with Spanish interpretation available. Breakfast and lunch as well as childcare will be provided.

The event is a collaboration uniting MPS, Alianza Latina Aplicando Soluciones, the U.S. Department of Education, the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities, Wisconsin Statewide Parent-Educator Initiative, Disability Rights Wisconsin, and WI FACETS (Wisconsin Family Assistance Center for Education, Training, and Support).

For more information, call (414) 902-8434. Register at <https://mpsmke.com/44CcGSP>.