

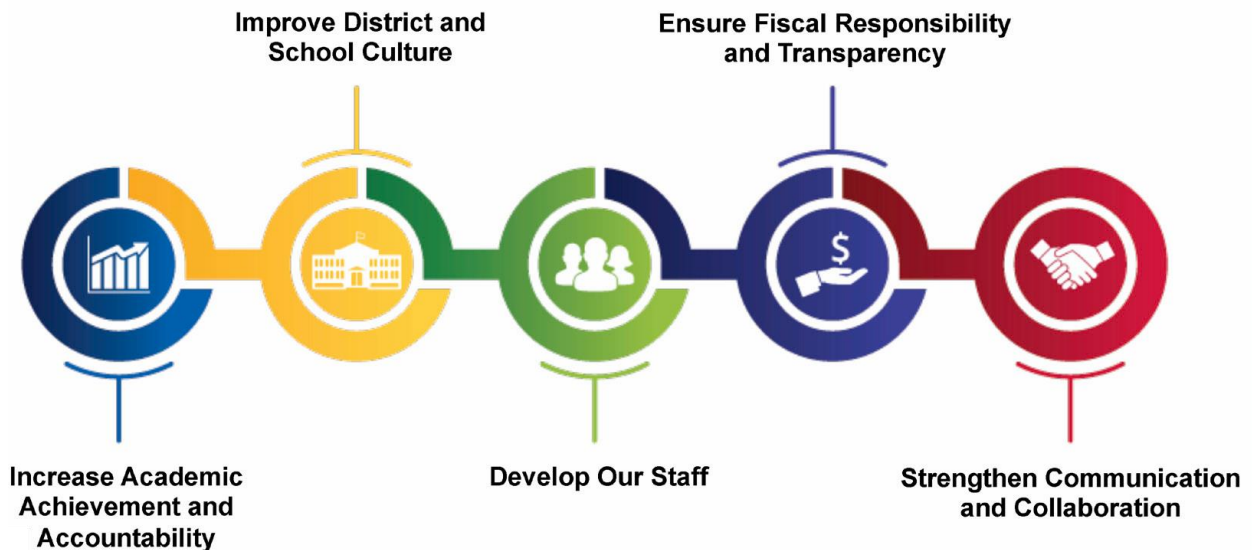


**MILWAUKEE
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**



Superintendent's Report – November 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 Combined Giving Campaign Supports the Community

The staff members of MPS exemplify selflessness by devoting their energy and resources to ensure that every student at MPS receives the high-quality education that they need to thrive in the future. One way that staff members exhibit their altruism is by actively participating in the MPS Combined Giving Campaign during the fall season.

Led by the United Way of Greater Milwaukee and Waukesha County, the 2023 MPS Combined Giving Campaign makes it possible for MPS employees to contribute to various nonprofits and community organizations through convenient methods such as payroll deduction or direct contribution. Last year, the campaign garnered support from donors across the district who collectively raised an impressive \$136,000.

This year, MPS strives to beat last year's contributions. The district has already collected more than \$67,000 in donations with more time to donate. The campaign will continue through Friday, November 17, providing ample time for more individuals to join this cause.

Your contribution, no matter the size, can make a meaningful difference. We encourage you to participate in this endeavor and support the MPS Combined Giving Campaign. To donate online, please visit <https://givingnexus.org/mpscampaign/>. Together, we can create a lasting positive impact on the lives of MPS students and the broader community. Thank you for your generosity and compassion.

Empower Me Tour

MPS takes pride in providing students with rigorous academic programs and engaging instruction, equipping them with a wealth of academic and technical options upon high school graduation. The foundation of knowledge and skills gained at MPS opens doors to numerous opportunities for our students.

An event that highlighted these opportunities was the Empower Me Tour's College Readiness Conference held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on November 8 and 9. MPS high school students and their parents who attended learned about myriad postsecondary options. This event, made possible through a partnership between Milwaukee Public Schools and the United Negro College Fund (UNCF), occurs annually.

The UNCF Empower Me Tour serves as a beacon of inspiration for young people, guiding them toward academic excellence, personal responsibility, and fiscal health. The Empower Me Tour achieves this mission by offering relevant program content and fostering community engagement. Unlike previous college events, this year's Empower Me Tour took a different approach: students were chosen by certain colleges and universities to participate in on-site admissions, workshops, and a college fair with more than 35 historically Black colleges and universities, both private and public.

Moreover, students interviewed for scholarships directly with these institutions. This holistic experience not only exposed students to diverse academic pathways but also enabled them to take significant steps toward shaping their future careers and education journeys.

The UNCF Empower Me Tour plays a pivotal role in guiding our students through essential life stages and emphasizing the importance of college readiness, career success, and financial literacy. Through initiatives such as these, MPS continues to empower its students, nurturing their potential and encouraging them to achieve their dreams.

HBCU Week at MPS

MPS is dedicated to ensuring that students are well prepared for both college and career success while being aware of their postsecondary options. To achieve this goal, MPS organized a week-long event featuring historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs). From November 6 to 10, students took part in various activities, including decorating classroom doors with HBCU-related items, participating in voter registration drives, and attending the Empower Me Tour event. HBCU Week helped students to gain insights into HBCUs and expand their knowledge about these institutions.

Celebrating School Psychologists

We express our gratitude to MPS psychologists for their unwavering dedication. National School Psychology Week, observed this year from November 6 through 10, enabled us to acknowledge and appreciate school psychologists' vital contributions in the roles that they play within our education community as special education evaluation team members, violence prevention specialists, crisis team members, suicide prevention trainers, and anti-racism educators. School psychologists actively engage with students, helping them navigate daily challenges. Thank you, MPS school psychologists, for your support and commitment.

MPS Opens Montessori Model Classrooms

In celebration of 50 years of Montessori education in MPS, we are furthering our commitment to this innovative education approach. MPS recently introduced its new Montessori model classrooms, which were on display during an open house event on November 2 at the Grant Gordon Learning Center.

At the open house, current MPS employees, prospective staff, and community stakeholders explored the new Montessori teacher credentialing space and interacted with the Montessori teachers and staff. These model classrooms offer a unique opportunity for individuals in Milwaukee to earn their Montessori teaching credentials.

By engaging in this program, participants can earn credentials affiliated with the globally respected Association Montessori Internationale (AMI). This affiliation not only signifies the high standards of Montessori education but also opens doors to a wealth of teaching prospects and professional growth.

The scarcity of Association Montessori Internationale credentialing programs nearby highlights the exceptional nature of this offering. Outside of MPS, the closest AMI credentialing programs are located in St. Paul, Minnesota, and St. Louis, Missouri, which makes MPS's initiative truly valuable for Milwaukee-area individuals aspiring to excel in the field of Montessori education.

The credentialing classes will begin in January 2024.

Be the Spark Encourages MPS Students

ManpowerGroup, the Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce, and the Milwaukee Bucks collaborated on October 19 to launch the "Be the Spark" career readiness program at the Fiserv Forum. This initiative provided approximately 250 MPS students with helpful career insights from some of Milwaukee's most accomplished residents and professionals.

Up to fifty students from each of the schools that attended—Audubon Technology and Communication High School, Bay View High School, Bradley Technology and Trade High School, Golda Meir School, and Riverside University High School—were invited to participate. During the

event, students learned from industry experts in diverse fields such as healthcare, social media, marketing, finance and accounting, human resources, facilities operations, and data analytics.

The event imparted essential advice to students and emphasized the value of internships in college not only for gaining work experience but also for exploring different career paths before making a commitment. Experts highlighted traits that employers seek in interns, including problem-solving abilities, effective communication skills, and a willingness to learn. Students were encouraged to recognize that these skills are transferable across various career fields and to remain open to new opportunities.

The Be the Spark program, now in its tenth school year, was developed by the Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce. This year, the event was co-sponsored by ManpowerGroup and the Milwaukee Bucks, illustrating the growing support and commitment from Milwaukee's influential organizations toward nurturing the future workforce.