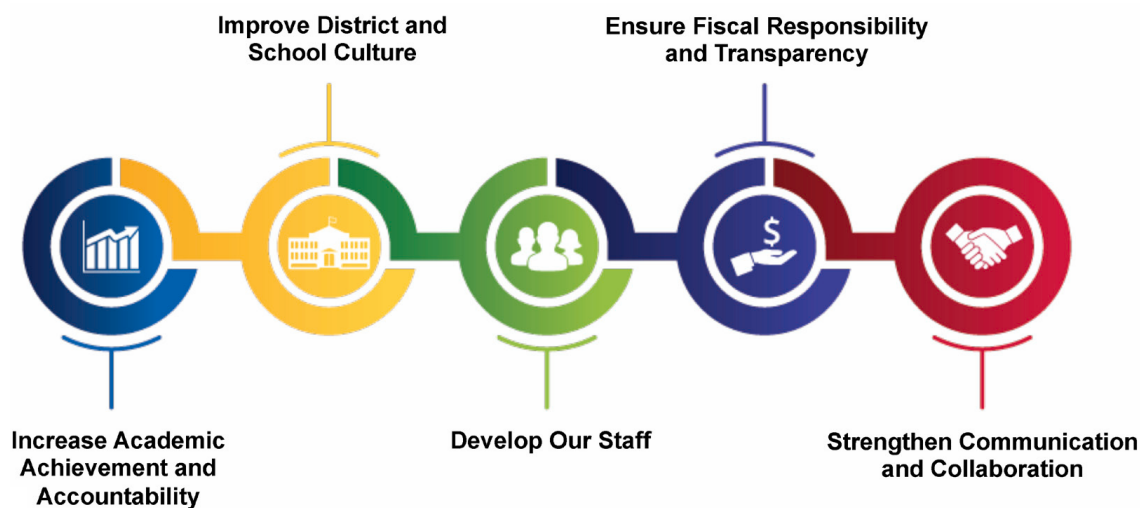




## Superintendent's Report – September 2020

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.



## *New MPS School Year Begins with Virtual Learning*

Students across the city logged in to computers and Chromebooks on September 1 as the 2020–21 school year began with online learning. MPS held a celebration at Siefert School to get students and families excited about learning.

At Siefert, MPS leadership, school board members, and the media gathered to help inspire students for the virtual school year. I shared comments along with Principal Wanda Varela Katz, Milwaukee Board of School Directors member Bob Peterson, and MTEA President Amy Mizialko. We wished students success in the new school year and reinforced MPS' commitment to a quality education for every child.



Successful learning has never been more important. We are committed to keeping our students on track and providing necessary support. Despite the pandemic, we are striving every day to ensure that our children succeed.

MPS educators have taken part in extensive professional development to facilitate online learning and are sharing creative ideas to keep students engaged. School leaders and staff are working diligently to ensure that every student has access to education and can participate fully.

MPS has developed a [School Reopening website](#) where families can find everything they need for successful learning. Help is also available through each MPS school.

Families who still need to enroll students should contact an MPS school, visit [mpsmke.com/enroll](https://mpsmke.com/enroll), or call the MPS enrollment hotline at (414) 267-5100.

With the school year underway, my 2020-2021 visits to both early start and traditional calendar schools have started. Some of the school communities I have visited thus far include Grant Gordon Learning Center, Gwen T. Jackson, Hopkins Lloyd, James Madison Academic Campus (JMAC), Lancaster, MacDowell Montessori School, Metcalfe, Milwaukee High School of the Arts, Milwaukee Marshall High School, Milwaukee School of Languages, River Trail, Stars, and Vincent High School. It was great to see staff and students engaged in learning!

### *MPS Expands Times and Adds Meal Sites for the 2020-2021 School Year*



Following months of successful meal distribution for MPS students and families at school sites, the district updated breakfast and lunch availability for the start of the new school year. As of August 24, 2020, pickup times have expanded to run from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Beginning on September 1, 26 new sites opened for meal distribution.

Due to federal guidelines for school breakfast and lunch programs, only MPS students are eligible to receive meals. To pick up a meal from a Stop, Grab, & Go location, students and families need to provide the student's first and last name or student ID number, the student's school name,

and the student's grade level.

Expanding our Stop, Grab, & Go locations and time will help ensure that all our students have access and flexibility to receive nutritious meals during virtual learning.

### *Spirit Week Activities Culminate on Third Friday Count Day*

Attendance in school is vital every day, and one of the most important days of the school year for attendance is third Friday. On the third Friday of September every year, the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction counts all students. These numbers are used for calculating state funds that are provided to public schools.

This year Spirit Week activities culminated on third Friday. Members of the MPS family posted photos and videos using the hashtags #MPSspiritweek and #MPSProud. The Spirit Week daily themes and descriptions included the following:

- **Mask Up Monday**—Photos wearing your favorite mask or face covering.
- **Quaranteam Tuesday**—Who do you rely on to get through the pandemic? (Photos, videos, and stories of your quaranteam!)
- **Why Wednesday?**—Videos on the importance of being in class every day.
- **Virtual Ready Thursday**—Photos/videos of student and staff home workspaces.
- **Fresh Photo Friday**—Students Logged in to their classes using a favorite or customized image as a profile picture. Teachers were asked to send photos of their class showing all the profile pictures.

### ***Visit Your Nearest Twilight Center This Fall***

Twilight Centers are providing safe spaces for our young people. This fall, we invite young people to visit our seven [Twilight Centers](#) around the city on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday evenings.

Twilight Centers offer opportunities for young people to safely spend time with friends though open gym shootaround (one player per hoop), board games, e-sports, snacks, art craft kits (limited time only!), and more!

Twilight Centers are free and open to MPS and non-MPS students alike.

Between mask mandates, temperature checks, social distancing, room capacity limits, and cleaning protocols, Milwaukee Recreation is taking every precaution so young people throughout the community can make time with their friends, interact with our staff, and find a safe & fun way to leave the house. Watch our video above for a full walk-through of our safety measures at each Twilight Center.

#### **Locations:**

- **Andrew Douglas Middle School:** ages 10-15
- **Madison High School:** ages 12-18
- **North Division High School:** ages 12-18
- **Obama School of Career & Technical Education:** ages 12-18
- **Pulaski High School:** ages 12-18
- **South Division High School:** ages 12-18
- **Washington High School:** ages 12-18
- **Bay View High School:** Closed for Twilight this fall

Find your nearest Twilight Center with our [interactive map](#)!

#### **Schedule:**

High school sites are open on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Andrew Douglas Middle School is open on Mondays, Wednesday, and Fridays from 5:00-8:00 p.m.

Fall Twilight hours run through December 30, 2020.

## ***Registration for Fall Programs Now Open***

Registration for Milwaukee Recreation's fall programs is now open for city of Milwaukee residents!

See our [Fall Recreation Guide](#) for the full listing of fun, affordable, and accessible programs designed for every age and ability level.

Classes include dance, fitness, science, art, outdoor education, yoga, and more! Milwaukee Recreation has also unveiled its inaugural [adult E-Sports leagues](#).

### **How To Register**

In-person registration will not be available this season, but participants can register [online](#), via mail, via fax, or over the phone by calling (414) 475-8180.

Visit [mkerec.net/HowToRegister](http://mkerec.net/HowToRegister) for more registration information.

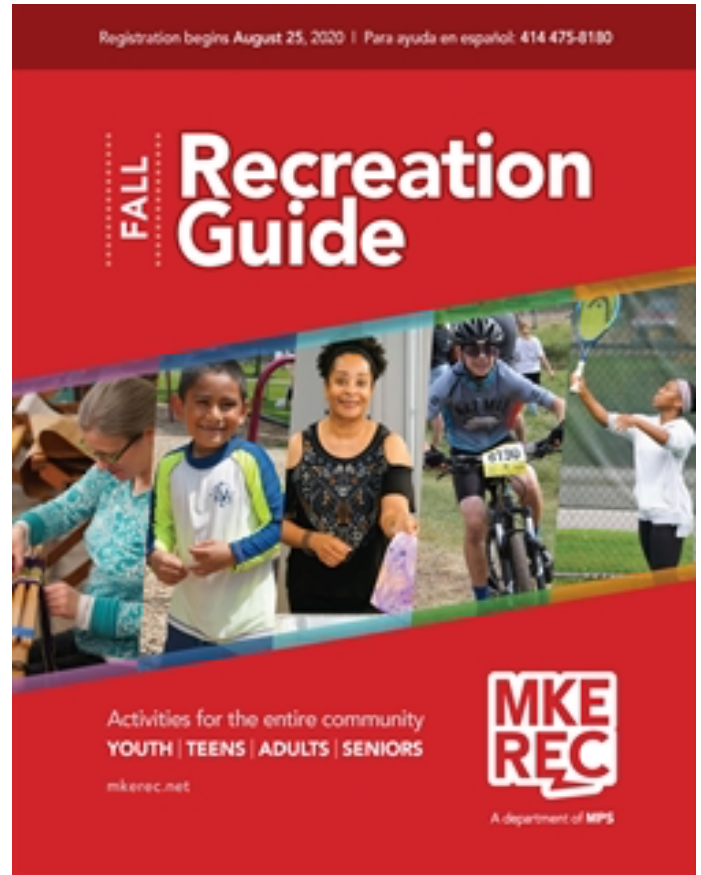
### **COVID-19 Safety Measures**

Safety measures will remain in effect for community center programs. Every class will be limited to nine participants or less. Masks are required for staff and participants over the age of 3. Free disposable masks will be available for all participants upon request. Hand sanitizing stations will also be available; patrons will be asked to wash their hands prior to starting each activity. All recreation staff will follow a regimented cleaning schedule.

While many programs will still be running with new social distancing measures, several Milwaukee Recreation fall programs have been canceled, including all swim lessons and aquatics classes. Find the updated list of canceled fall programs [here](#).

Milwaukee Recreation continues to monitor recommended guidelines, which may result in schedule changes and/or cancelations of activities. Any schedule changes will be communicated to participants as soon as possible. If a class or activity is canceled due to unforeseen circumstances, a full refund will be provided.

While this is an ever-changing situation, it is the goal of Milwaukee Recreation to bring programs and services to the community in the best way possible. We look forward to seeing you at our sites soon!





## Hone Your Skills at Milwaukee Recreation's Youth Sports Clinics



Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all school-based fall [Youth Sports](#) leagues have been canceled. The decision was made to protect the safety of student-athletes, staff, and spectators.

As an alternative, the Milwaukee Recreation Youth Sports Office has created a series of instructional opportunities for students in soccer, volleyball, flag football, tennis, girls' basketball, and cross-country fun runs. Unlike the standard school sports registration process, these clinics/lessons will require students to register and pay fees individually to

Milwaukee Recreation. In the event financial assistance is needed, families are encouraged to apply for an [Everyone Plays! Scholarship](#).

**Online registration and phone registrations (414-475-8410) are open!** Spaces for these opportunities are limited to keep group sizes to a minimum, so registering early is strongly recommended.

Masks/face coverings are required for all participants, spectators, staff, and instructors during all Youth Sports programming. We look forward to providing safe and socially responsible sport opportunities to students this fall!

**Visit our Youth Sports webpage ([mkerec.net/YouthSports](http://mkerec.net/YouthSports)) to register and find details on each clinic.**

Contact the Youth Sports Office at 414-475-8410 with any questions.

## Take Part in Our Fall Wellness Opportunities!

Get motivated and stay energized with Milwaukee Recreation this fall through our September Yoga Challenge and free [wellness](#) classes!

### September Yoga Challenge

Milwaukee Recreation is celebrating National Yoga Month by conducting a Yoga Challenge. Form a new healthy habit and build a well-rounded yoga regimen throughout September with Milwaukee Recreation!



Post a photo of yourself completing one of our listed yoga poses into our Yoga Challenge [Facebook group](#) through September 30, 2020. Click to see the [full list of poses](#)!

For every photo you post, your name will be submitted into a raffle to win a Milwaukee Recreation Fitness Prize Pack:

- First Place: \$25 Milwaukee Recreation gift card, yoga mat, and a swag bag of Milwaukee Recreation branded items.
- Runner-Up: Yoga mat and a swag bag of Milwaukee Recreation branded items.

Feel free to complete as many of the yoga poses as you would like – whether that is just 1 or all 30! Multiple entries are encouraged! The contest winner will be announced by October 5, 2020.

#### *Contest Rules*

- Each photo posted in the September Yoga Challenge Facebook group will count as one contest entry. Multiple entries are allowed and encouraged!
- Each photo posted must showcase you doing one of the yoga poses from the Yoga Challenge Card. Each photo must be a different pose, you may not post the same pose more than once. Only one post per day is allowed.

#### **Fall Wellness Classes**

Click the links to register. Class sizes are limited to nine people to maximize social distancing.

All programs are free. Click here for more information on our [wellness programs](#).

#### [Mil"WALK"ee Walking Club](#)

Join our walking club and explore Milwaukee with us!

#### [Fitness in the Park Yoga](#)

Practicing Yoga outdoors has many benefits including increasing body awareness, strength and flexibility while connecting you deeper with nature. Join us for an outdoor yoga class that will take you through a series of poses and breath work.

#### [Fitness in the Park Bootcamp](#)

Join us for an outdoor bootcamp class to challenge your entire body! Each class will include some strength, cardio, and stretching exercises to give you a total body workout.

### **[Brewers Community Foundation, American Family Insurance donate \\$200,000 to Milwaukee Public Schools to Support Virtual Learning](#)**

American Family Insurance and Brewers Community Foundation made a joint \$200,000 donation to Milwaukee Public Schools #ConnectMilwaukee initiative, which will assist students in getting the tools they need for virtual learning.

The initiative will provide internet access and equipment to thousands of MPS students and families as virtual learning continues this year, according to a news release from American Family Insurance.

This is the largest corporate donation to the program and will allow #ConnectMilwaukee to surpass its original fundraising goal of \$1 million. Fans who are interested in joining the effort can contribute to the Brewers Community Foundation or send money directly to MPS.