

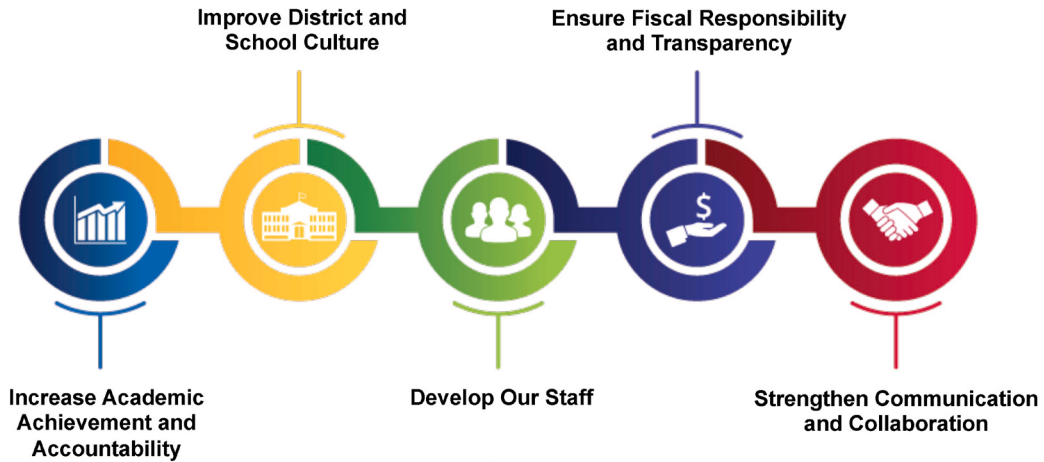


MILWAUKEE PUBLIC SCHOOLS



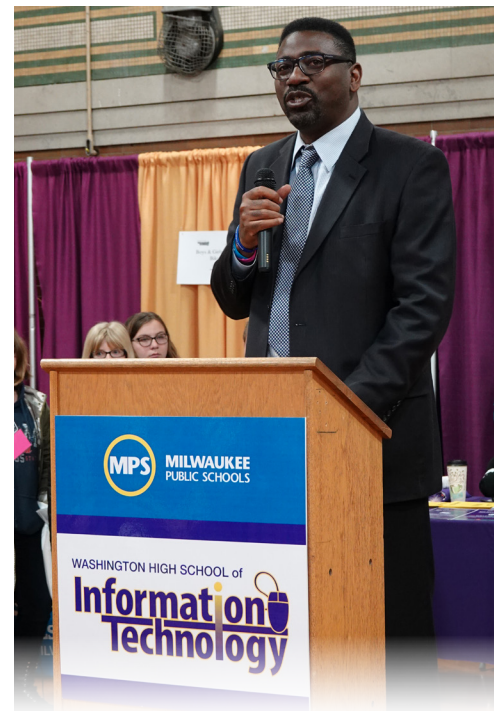
Superintendent's Report – November

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 strategic objectives and the Five Priorities for Success.



SCHOOL VISITS

School visits remain a priority and serve as an excellent mechanism for gathering feedback to support our improvement efforts. This month, some of the schools I visited include **Allen-Field, Bay View, Burdick, Cass, Fratney, Hawthorne, Gwen T. Jackson Early Childhood and Elementary, Lincoln Avenue, James Madison Academic Campus (JMAC), Milwaukee German Immersion, Milwaukee School of Languages** and **Wedgewood**. In alignment with our efforts to increase opportunities for student voice, I conducted a student focus group at **Hmong American Peace Academy (HAPA)**. I also gave greetings at **Milwaukee French Immersion School** where we held our Equity–Education–Empowerment Speaker Series on “A Thread in Milwaukee’s Fabric” presented by Reggie Jackson. Community Conversations sessions were held at **James Madison Academic Campus, Hamilton High School, Bay View High School,** and **Milwaukee High School of the Arts**, where we continued our ongoing dialogue with stakeholders to discuss ways to strengthen our district and school culture.



EVENTS/PROGRAMS/ANNOUNCEMENTS



MKE Early Childhood Initiative

Milwaukee Public Schools, in collaboration with the City of Milwaukee and other public and private partners, has announced a new initiative and call to action to improve early childhood education across the city. Ninety-five percent of a child's brain development occurs in the first five years, the timeframe that is the focus of this initiative.

MPS and city leaders are joining together to build on past momentum and push forward with the MKE Early Childhood Initiative. The City of Milwaukee has hired a qualified individual to help spearhead early childhood literacy work. MPS is working with childcare partners to see how Milwaukee can create consistency of high-quality learning experiences from birth to age 5 that improves literacy but also supports social and emotional development. Four focus areas have been identified for the initiative.



- 1 Ensuring every Milwaukee family has access to high-quality childcare
- 2 Improving MPS early literacy scores
- 3 Increasing state reimbursement rates for day care centers
- 4 Leveraging resources to ensure a high-quality learning experience from day care to school

North Division Joins Community Schools Partnership

Strong partners improve equity and enhance student success. To boost student achievement, North Division High School has announced that it will partner with the Milwaukee Urban League and United Way of Greater Milwaukee & Waukesha County as part of the Milwaukee Community Schools Partnership. This United Way initiative works with community partners to improve education outcomes, school climate, and local neighborhoods while ensuring that equity and cultural relevance are cultivated in all programs and engagement.



The Community School model has been implemented across the nation and in about a dozen MPS schools. As available school resources continue to tighten, partners provide volunteers, supply drives, leadership, mentorship, tutoring, and more to make sure every child receives the education they deserve. Partnerships represent an investment in the future of our youth who will one day be our economic and community leaders.

The Milwaukee Urban League, United Way of Greater Milwaukee & Waukesha County, and North Division High School are eager to unlock the potential of young people and the surrounding community. MPS is grateful for the engagement of these strong partners who are prepared to accelerate student learning.

Walmart partners with MPS to employ students and increase college access

Walmart has announced that it will adopt MPS traditional high schools during the 2018–19 school year. In partnership with the Milwaukee Public Schools Department of Strategic Partnerships & Customer Service, a kickoff was held at **Riverside University High School**. The partnership will offer students the opportunity to explore all Walmart career tracks, complete an application for employment, and participate in on-the-spot interviews.



Walmart 

Walmart is committed to hiring as many as 50 students at a starting wage of \$11.00 per hour. Students can request a flexible schedule to ensure that their academics remain top priority. Following graduation, students employed by

Walmart will be able to participate in the retailer's new partnership with Guild Education, available to all associates, both part-time and full-time. Through the Guild Education program, participants can earn an online associate's degree or bachelor of arts degree in business administration or logistics for as little as \$1.00 per day. MPS is committed to ensuring that all students graduate from high school on time, prepared for college, career, and life. Walmart's partnership will provide opportunities to students who may feel that college is unaffordable or out of reach.

Wisconsin Students GO 2 College

As part of the American College Application Campaign, Wisconsin schools are participating in **Wisconsin Students GO 2 College**. Promoted by MPS school counselors, events will be hosted in 22 MPS schools to help students apply for postsecondary education. The American



College Application Campaign is a national effort to increase the number of first-generation and low-income students pursuing a college degree or other higher education credential.



Milwaukee Public Schools offers a College & Career Center in all 20 traditional high schools to help students plan beyond graduation. Staff are available to help with college applications, essays, scholarship applications, the Federal Application for Free Student Aid (FAFSA), and more. College applications, financial aid applications, and scholarships are on the rise in MPS! In 2018, MPS students were offered \$86.2 million in scholarships and grants.

MPS gains support in family engagement from Flamboyan Foundation

Milwaukee Public Schools has been accepted into Flamboyan Foundation's National Family Engagement Fellowship. This national expert in family engagement has been working with a team of dedicated advocates for stronger family engagement in MPS to complete a landscape assessment of family engagement in the district. Using information gathered from interviews, focus groups, surveys, and other district data, the team will embark on designing new approaches to the ways schools connect with families.



During a visit this fall, Flamboyan team members met with MPS leadership to explore a vision for family engagement in MPS. The team of Flamboyan and MPS representatives will work together over the next year to test new approaches for engaging families. Research in the district to this point revealed that families and staff see a need to focus on the quality of engagement rather than frequency of involvement. A target effort will be to help every parent be able to advocate for their child, ensure children are ready to learn each day, and share the family's hopes and dreams for their child's future.



Employment program kicks off at South Division High School

Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG) kicked off a new program for 25 students from Milwaukee Public Schools **South Division High School**.

Through this program, students learn critical employability and leadership skills. The goal is to help each student in the program graduate and find employment. JAG will assist these students for up to one year after graduating from high school.



The JAG program in Milwaukee is being supported through a public/private cost-sharing partnership among **Milwaukee Public Schools, QPS Employment, Associated Bank, and the Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce (MMAC)**. Associated Bank and MMAC have each donated \$5,000, and QPS made a \$25,000 donation at the ceremony.

Jobs for America's Graduates is a state-based national nonprofit organization dedicated to preventing dropouts among young people who have serious barriers to graduation and/or employment. In more than three decades of operation, JAG has

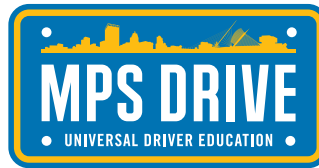
delivered consistent results, helping more than 1 million young people stay in school through graduation, pursue postsecondary education, and secure quality entry-level jobs leading to career advancement opportunities.

AWARDS/RECOGNITION

Annie McGinnity Kubes recognized for MPS Drive

Milwaukee Recreation's **Annie McGinnity Kubes** was recognized this month by the **Wisconsin Community Services (WCS) Center for Driver's License Recovery & Employability (CDLRE)**. Citywide leads the MPS Drive program, the free driver education initiative for students currently enrolled in an MPS high school.

MPS Drive is one of Milwaukee Recreation's signature programs for improving equity in the community. Recognizing the disparity between the number of Milwaukee 18-year-olds with a driver's license (30 percent) compared to their suburban counterparts (71 percent), the department developed MPS Drive, the only program in the nation to offer both free driver education and a restorative track for students who have suspended licenses. Since 2016, this program has maintained a 97 percent pass rate on the permit test, while helping nearly 1,000 students obtain a license.



Going places.



MPS Drive addresses three key issues: equity, workforce readiness, and public safety. The CDLRE works with low-income Milwaukee County residents with active suspensions or revocations, and partners with MPS Drive to help students on the restorative track complete the necessary steps toward a driver's license.

Since its inception just three years ago, MPS Drive has quickly made its mark on high schoolers, families, and everyday drivers across Milwaukee. McGinnity Kubes believes there are even greater strides to be made in the coming years, particularly when it comes to bringing in students who may already have a suspended or revoked license.

Teaira McMurtry is named to national fellowship

Milwaukee Public Schools congratulates School Improvement Coordinator **Teaira McMurtry, Ph.D.**, who was selected for a fellowship by the **National Council of Teachers of English**. As part of the Cultivating New Voices among Scholars of Color initiative, Dr. McMurtry will receive two years of support, mentorship, and networking opportunities to broaden her impact on education and help break new ground for students and educators of color.

McMurtry completed her Ph.D. in language and literacy at Cardinal Stritch University this summer. In MPS, she currently designs and facilitates professional development for teachers and instructional leaders in the areas of adolescent literacy and culturally and linguistically responsive practices. Her work centers on helping teachers understand and respond to language differences and to move away from standardized teaching traditions.

Mentoring McMurtry will be Arnetha F. Ball, who is the Charles E. Ducommun Endowed Professor in the Graduate School of Education at Stanford University in the Curriculum Studies, Teacher Education, and Race, Inequality and Language programs.



Sabrina Lupoli receives national award for teaching excellence in Italian



The **Coccia Foundation** has awarded the *2018 Coccia-Inserra Award for Excellence and Innovation in the Teaching of Italian* to **Sabrina Lupoli**, a teacher at **Milwaukee Italian Immersion School**. Lupoli received her award during the Teaching Italian Symposium at Montclair State University in New Jersey. The extensive award application included sample lesson plans, community involvement, promotion of the Italian language, evaluation by the principal, comments from students, professional development, and a 15-minute video of a classroom lesson.

Lupoli attended the symposium to gain new teaching tools and techniques and was recognized in front of a large gathering of attendees. The award included a \$5,000 prize, with half designated for classroom needs and half earmarked for Lupoli's professional development.

Now in her fifth year with Milwaukee Public Schools, Lupoli has taught five-year-old kindergarten, third grade, and currently teaches a combined second and third grade class.



Kathleen Westrich of Reagan High School is Assistant Principal of the Year

Assistant Principal **Kathleen Westrich** at **Ronald Wilson Reagan College Preparatory High School** was named *Assistant Principal of the Year* by the **Association of Wisconsin School Administrators (AWSA)**.



The Wisconsin Assistant Principal of the Year program recognizes an assistant principal whose leadership has resulted in improved student learning, instructional collaboration, and a safe and positive school environment. Nominations come from fellow administrators, school board members, teachers, students or parents. The selection criteria include a commitment to personal excellence; collaborative leadership; personalization; curriculum, instruction and assessment; and serving as an established and respected member of the community.

Westrich will formally accept the award at the 2019 Associate Principals Conference in January in Green Bay. She will also receive \$1,000 for use on a project of her choice at her high school. Additionally, Westrich will represent the state of Wisconsin at the National Principals Conference in Boston next summer, where the 50 Assistant Principals of the Year from across the country will be honored.



INCREASING OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENT VOICE

A shared goal of the Milwaukee Board of School Directors and the Administration is providing increased opportunities for student voice throughout the district and at the monthly Board meetings. With that goal in mind, I have continued my listening sessions with students. Through these sessions, I learn a lot about what is important to students, including what makes them most proud about MPS and what their ideas are for increasing student voice in district decision making. Last month, I had the privilege of meeting with students at Hmong American Peace Academy (HAPA). At the November Board meeting, HAPA students will provide a report on the various recommendations for increasing student voice that they shared with me when I visited their school.

