

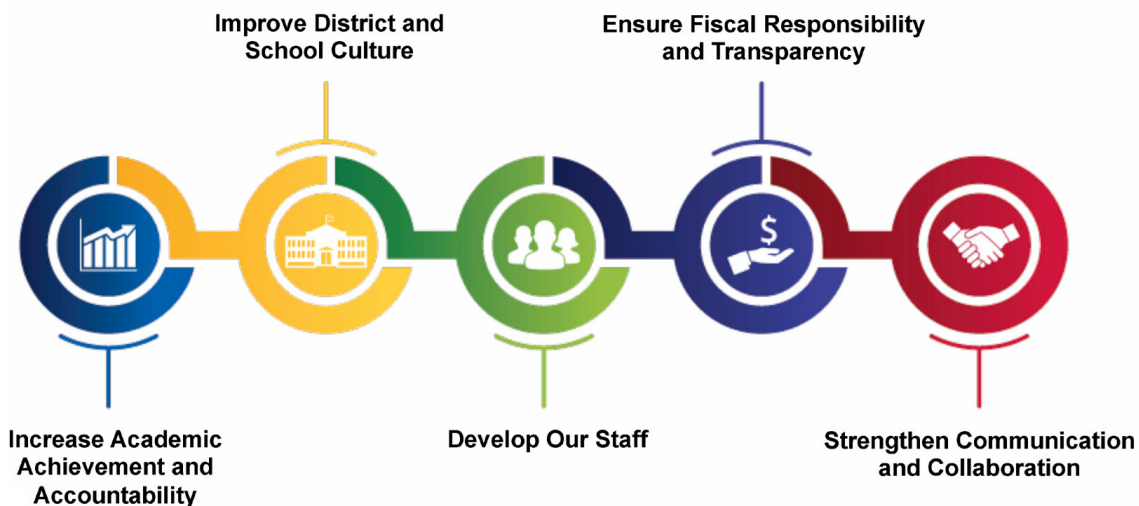


**MILWAUKEE  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**



## Superintendent’s Report – January 2021

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.



### MPS Celebrates the Birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Monday, January 18, 2021, was the formal observance of the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Milwaukee Public Schools students and teachers observed Dr. King’s birthday and learned about his legacy throughout the week and will continue to do so. King would be 92 years old this year.

Students and families observed this important holiday by participating in virtual celebrations and services, reading books or watching videos about Dr. King’s life and legacy, listening to one of Dr. King’s speeches, or discussing the Civil Rights Movement.

On Sunday, January 17, 2021, the celebration of Dr. King’s birthday culminated with the 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Virtual Celebration, sponsored by the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts. Milwaukee is one of only two cities that have celebrated the holiday annually since 1984. This much anticipated event included recognition of the 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Art, Speech and Writing Contest participants.

Milwaukee Public Schools students performed, delivered speeches, and shared artwork during this year’s event, which was livestreamed. This year’s contest theme was “Keep Moving Forward.”

Student winners of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Speech Contest and student performance groups were viewed via video during the celebration. Artwork by winners in the Art Contest was presented via slideshow.

The following are the MPS students who placed in the contest:

### Art Winners

	<b>Grades K – 2</b>	<b>Grades 3 – 5</b>
<b>1st Place</b>	Remi Davies, Lloyd Barbee Montessori School, Grade 1 <i>Teacher: Ms. Ashley</i>	Jaden Old Coyote, Burbank School, Grade 5 <i>Teacher: Anna Petersen</i>
<b>2nd Place</b>	Sam Solis, Burbank School, Grade 2 <i>Teacher: Anna Petersen</i>	Nora Synovic, Milwaukee German Immersion School, Grade 5 <i>Teacher: Karen Silber</i>
<b>3rd Place</b>	Florence Okidi, Milwaukee Spanish Immersion School, Grade 2 <i>Teacher: Tracy Matel</i>	Matthew Tania Munoz Prada, ALBA School, Grade 5 <i>Teacher: Jennifer Santiago</i>
	<b>Grades 6 – 8</b>	<b>Grade 9 – 12</b>
<b>1st Place</b>	Nandar Oak, Wedgewood Park IB School, Grade 7 <i>Teacher: Margaret Fish</i>	Aubrey Jilla, Milwaukee High School of the Arts, Grade 10 <i>Teacher: Ms. Wojnar</i>
<b>2nd Place</b>	Zachariah Lara, Wedgewood Park IB School, Grade 6 <i>Teacher: Margaret Fish</i>	Camorra Forrest, Milwaukee High School of the Arts, Grade 9 <i>Teacher: Ms. Wojnar</i>
<b>3rd Place</b>	Mariana Lopez Carro, Escuela Vieau School, Grade 7 <i>Teacher: Laura Lofton</i>	Bryonna Saygo, Milwaukee High School of the Arts, Grade 11 <i>Teacher: Brendan Senne</i>

### Speech Winners

	<b>Grades K – 2</b>	<b>Grades 3 – 4</b>
<b>1st Place</b>	Essence Green, Craig Montessori School, K5 <i>Teacher: Susan Starkman</i>	Niles Janzen, Fernwood Montessori School, Grade 4 <i>Teacher: Katy Gabor</i>
<b>2nd Place</b>	Jurni Johnson, Elm Creative Arts School, Grade 1 <i>Teacher: Therese Kroll</i>	Justice Edwards, Golda Meir, Grade 3 <i>Teacher: Erin Bailey</i>
<b>3rd Place</b>		Orjan Oulahan, Maryland Ave. Montessori School, Grade 4 <i>Teacher: Lauren Bolinski</i>

	<b>Grades 5 – 6</b>	<b>Grades 7 – 8</b>
<b>1st Place</b>	Kayle Phillips, Golda Meir Upper Campus, Grade 6 <i>Teacher: Nicole Price</i>	Zora Penager Davidson, Fernwood Montessori School, Grade 8 <i>Teacher: Sara Raasch</i>
<b>2nd Place</b>		Raya El-Hajjar, Maryland Ave. Montessori School, Grade 8 <i>Teacher: Gina Follstad</i>
<b>3rd Place</b>	Cornel Penager Davidson, Fernwood Montessori School, Grade 6 <i>Teacher: Sara Raasch</i>	Sahmii Dixon, Lincoln Center of the Arts, Grade 7 <i>Teacher: Sandra Meeks</i>
	<b>Grades 9 – 10</b>	<b>Grades 11 – 12</b>
<b>1st Place</b>	Janiya Williams, Golda Meir Upper Campus, Grade 10 <i>Teacher: Jayme Timmons</i>	Taira McClellan, Vincent High School, Grade 12 <i>Teacher: Jennifer Koss</i>
<b>2nd Place</b>	Brandon Gorton, Reagan IB High School, Grade 9 <i>Teacher: Kristoffer Puddicombe</i>	
<b>3rd Place</b>		Mohammad Faisal Khan Mohammad Rofiq, Milwaukee High School of the Arts, Grade 11 <i>Teacher: Sarah Harley</i>

### Writing Winners

	<b>Grades 2 – 3</b>	<b>Grades 4 – 5</b>
<b>1st Place</b>	Leslie White, Golda Meir Lower Campus, Grade 3 <i>Teacher: Erin Bailey</i>	Isabella Krieger-Silva, Fernwood Montessori School, Grade 4
<b>2nd Place</b>	Zariah Bowers, Golda Meir Lower Campus, Grade 3 <i>Teacher: Erin Bailey</i>	Dahlia Santiago, Golda Meir Lower Campus, Grade 5 <i>Teacher: Kermit McClendon</i>
<b>3rd Place</b>		Kya Barnes, IDEAL School, Grade 5 <i>Teacher: Karla Zuehlke</i>
	<b>Grades 6</b>	<b>Grades 7 – 8</b>
<b>1st Place</b>	Cornel Penager Davidson, Fernwood Montessori School, Grade 6 <i>Teacher: Nikolai Gurda</i>	Victoria Kona, Milwaukee Academy of Chinese Language, Grade 7 <i>Teacher: Bianca Gasparri</i>
<b>2nd Place</b>	Claire Wise, IDEAL School, Grade 6 <i>Teacher: Amy Rognsvog</i>	Bilal Hassan, Trowbridge School, Grade 7 <i>Teacher: Linda Lemmen</i>
<b>3rd Place</b>		Aniah Gilbert, Trowbridge School, Grade 8 <i>Teacher: Frederick Franklin</i>
	<b>Grades 9 – 10</b>	<b>Grades 11 – 12</b>
<b>1st Place</b>		

<b>2nd Place</b>	Destiny Dokes, Rufus King IB High School, Grade 9 <i>Teacher: Kelly O'Keefe Boettcher</i>	Nevaeh Biddle, Rufus King IB High School, Grade 11 <i>Teacher: Dawn Schlipp</i>
<b>3rd Place</b>	Ashton Schmidt, Rufus King IB High School, Grade 9 <i>Teacher: Kelly O'Keefe Boettcher</i>	Tyra Wilson, Milwaukee Marshall High School, Grade 11 <i>Teacher: Michael Hirsch</i>

**Happy birthday, Dr. King and congratulations to all of this year's contest participants!**

### **MPS Will Honor Graduates With Virtual Ceremony**

Congratulations, Milwaukee Public Schools winter graduates! Students and their families were able to see their photos during a full-length virtual program. The graduation video to recognize winter graduates can be found on the [MPS YouTube channel](#)

We invite the entire Milwaukee community to help celebrate our graduates! Hang signs, get creative, or post on social media and tag with #MPSClass2021, #MPSProud, or #MPSGrads. Graduates can email us photos at [comm@milwaukee.k12.wi.us](mailto:comm@milwaukee.k12.wi.us).

Congratulations, graduates! We wish you a bright and successful future!

### **MPS Hosts Kindergarten Enrollment Fairs on February 6 and 20, 2021**

Milwaukee Public Schools will host two virtual Kindergarten Enrollment Fairs on February 6 and 20, 2021, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The Fair will help families explore schools, make choices, and enroll students for fall 2021. Wisconsin law requires children to complete five-year-old kindergarten before entering first grade.

All MPS schools that offer Head Start and kindergarten will be available to video chat so families can ask questions, learn about programs, and identify the best options for their children. Families will have the chance to speak directly with school staff. Interpreters will be available. Children are welcome to join the virtual event so they can hear about school programs and be ready to attend in fall.

A link to the virtual fair will be available at [mpsmke.com/enroll](http://mpsmke.com/enroll).

Families can learn about the many programs and offerings in MPS schools. The district provides free breakfast and lunch for all students. Many schools have before- and after-school care to accommodate parents. Bus transportation is available; each school can provide information. Uniforms are worn by students in many MPS schools.

#### **Head Start**

Free preschool is available through the federal Head Start program for families who meet income limits. Head Start prepares children for school and teaches important early skills. Transportation is available.

#### **Kindergarten**

3-year-old Kindergarten: Limited programs are available at some schools. Children must turn 3 by September 1 to be eligible.

4-year-old Kindergarten: Programs are available at most schools across the district. Children must

turn 4 by September 1 to be eligible.

5-year-old Kindergarten: Programs are available at most schools across the district.

Children must turn 5 by September 1 to be eligible.

For questions about enrollment or the Enrollment Fair, call 414-475-8159.

## **MPS Students Spend Holiday Break Learning Through Virtual Camps**

Thanks to community partners, Milwaukee Public Schools students had the chance to spend part of their holiday break learning about animals and music. The Wisconsin Humane Society (WHS) and the Wisconsin Conservatory of Music both delivered virtual programs to students in partnership with the MPS Extended Learning Opportunities office.

Twelve MPS students in grades 1 through 6 attended the Wisconsin Humane Society virtual winter camp. Participants took a virtual tour of the WHS, met live animals, played games, and created animal-related works of art. Students learned about appropriate ways to pet or approach a dog, animal body language, and careers in helping animals. Each camper received an exclusive WHS camp kit filled with supplies to make the camp engaging and facilitate hands-on activities.

Fourteen MPS students in grades 6 through 12 participated in a Music Technology camp through the Wisconsin Conservatory of Music. Campers joined conservatory faculty for three days to create and compose music using digital audio workstations to sample, record, mix, and master. This camp was an introduction to the rapidly growing industry of music production and technology. Campers received a subscription to Soundtrap software so they could mix and engineer their own songs. At the end of the camp, a listening party was held for students to showcase their creations.

The Extended Learning Opportunities office works with a variety of community partners to offer enrichment programming on non-school days and during holiday breaks. Families can learn more about programs and partners on the [Extended Learning Adventures web page](#).

## **Free Fresh Produce Bags for Children in January**

The MPS Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program has been a hit with families! Therefore, the district is extending the program through the Department of Nutrition Services. The theme for 2021 is **Healthy Habits for the New Year**.

Free weekly produce bags are available on Thursdays at [MPS Stop, Grab, and Go](#) locations. All children age 18 and under can receive a bag. Pick up your bags and join the fun!

Weekly themes are designed to help families cook together, enjoy new foods, and learn more about nutrients that are essential for good health, growth, and learning. Each produce bag has been specially selected to provide healthy fresh fruits and vegetables along with nutrition facts and recipes. Cooking videos are available on the [MPS YouTube page](#).

### **Themes for January 2021**

#### **January 7: Make it Smart! How to Set Realistic, Effective Health Goals**

**Recipe:** Garden Vegetable Soup with Blood Orange and Champagne Mango

**Produce Items:** Blood orange, carrots, champagne mango, garlic, green beans, green cabbage, yellow onion, zucchini

**January 14: Better Body Image**

**Recipe:** Curry House Cauliflower, Raita Cucumber Salad, and Red Bananas with Cardamom

**Produce Items:** Cauliflower, cilantro, cucumber, ginger, lime, red banana, serrano chilis, turmeric, Yukon gold potatoes

**January 21: The Dynamic Duo: Nutrition and Exercise**

**Recipe:** Portobello Mushroom Burgers with Side Salad, Kumquat, and Tamarind

**Produce Items:** Garlic, kumquats, lemon, portobello mushrooms, spring mix, tamarind pods

**January 28: Fuel Your Body, Power Your Mind**

**Recipe:** Winter Fruit Salad and Jicama with Lime

**Produce Items:** Clementine, D'Anjou pear, Granny Smith apple, jicama, kiwi, lemon, limes, McIntosh apple, pomegranate, Red Anjou pears