



**MILWAUKEE
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**



Superintendent’s Report – August 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.



This summer was busy, exciting, and productive. While our young people were working, traveling, and taking in the many festivals for which Milwaukee has become world famous, the people at MPS were moving the district forward. Notably, our Office of Human Resources worked diligently to fill staff and educator vacancies. We are proud to report that, as a result of these efforts, several MPS schools are now fully staffed and ready for our scholars. What is more, the district also executed a timely New Educator Institute, at which we welcomed and onboarded educators who were new to the district.

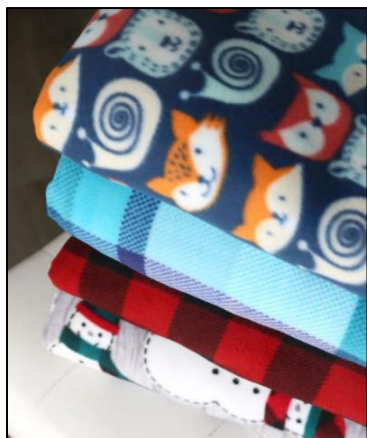
This is just one example of the wonderful things that have happened in MPS this summer. Here are a few other highlights:

Freshman Bridge

On August 3 and 4, 2023, MPS high schools hosted Freshman Bridge, an MPS program that helps students to be prepared for their first day of classes and discover the supports available to them in high school. The program includes skill enrichment projects, community-building activities, and

information about high school courses, credits, and the importance of their GPA. Students also learn about after-school programs, clubs, and sports and have an opportunity to meet school staff. This year, over 1,900 incoming freshmen enhanced their transition from middle school to high school by attending Freshman Bridge. The Class of 2027 has a promising future ahead!

Parkview Elementary Students Serve the Community



Parkview students practiced their leadership skills through WE LEAD, a program that focuses on developing leadership skills in grades 3–5. Parkview students in grades 4 and 5 developed projects that focused on kindness. The grade 4 kindness project was a competitive food drive. All of the food that the grade 4 students collected was donated to Pampered Darlings, an organization that helps expecting mothers and mothers of newborns. The kindness project developed by grade 5 students called for them to spread the warmth of kindness with a donation of blankets to Children’s Hospital. They made and donated 25 knotted fleece blankets for MACC Fund Center patients, young patients treated for cancer and blood disorders.

Milwaukee Recreation’s Annual Run Back to School

MPS has invited the community to celebrate the start of the 2023–24 school year at the 16th annual Run Back to School on Saturday, August 26. Participants have registered for the 5K fun run or 1.5-mile walk through Washington Park, followed by family-friendly activities. Proceeds from the event will support youth recreation programs.



The event is coordinated by Milwaukee Recreation, a department of MPS. The 5K fun run and 1.5-mile walk begin at 9:00 a.m. (participants will not be allowed to start the course after 9:10 a.m.). The run/walk starts and ends at Wick Playfield (4929 W. Vliet Street). Costs were \$5.00 for youth and \$20.00 for adults. Event parking is available at MPS Central Services (5225 W. Vliet Street).

The cost of the race includes an event T-shirt, race bag, and snacks after the run/walk. First-, second-, and third-place awards will be given to the top male/female adult finishers for the 5K run. The top three finishers in the youth divisions will receive medals: elementary school (kindergarten–grade 5), middle school (grades 6–8), and high school (grades 9–12). Every child

will receive a participation medal. Additionally, the event will feature a school mascot race, entertainment, refreshments, exhibit booths, activities for children, and much more.

The 2023 Run Back to School is made possible with generous support from Educators Credit Union; Edvest; Goodwill Industries of Southeastern Wisconsin and Metropolitan Chicago; Gabriel, Roeder, Smith & Company; Gruber Law Offices; UnitedHealthcare; and Voya Financial.

Burnham Playfield Renovated



Milwaukee Recreation's Burnham Playfield renovation project received the Brewers Community Foundation Public Space Award at the Milwaukee Awards for Neighborhood Development Innovation (MANDI) on Thursday, August 10. The MANDI awards, which were presented by U.S. Bank in partnership with Local

Initiatives Support Corporation Milwaukee, recognized excellence in individuals, organizations, and projects that are improving conditions in Milwaukee's neighborhoods.

Learn more about this [wonderful project and well-deserved award](#).

GE HealthCare Day of Service

Over 1,000 GE HealthCare employees, retirees, friends, and family rolled up their sleeves and painted, landscaped, and refreshed six MPS schools on Thursday, August 17, during the company's 27th annual Community Service Day at Milwaukee Public Schools.

The employees worked on projects in playgrounds, classrooms, and hallways at Allen-Field, Brown, Burbank, Cass Street, Franklin, and IDEAL schools. In addition to painting walls, murals, and playground lines, weeding, mulching, and planting, volunteers also in some cases updated school furniture and shelving. Additionally, GE HealthCare gave \$4,000 to each school for project supplies.



The GE HealthCare team plans its Community Service Day more than a year in advance, working with each selected school to identify projects for the volunteers to complete. We look forward to partnering with GE HealthCare next year.

International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme

Three MPS elementary schools—ALBA, Marvin E. Pratt, and Gilbert Stuart—started the new school year as the district’s newest International Baccalaureate schools. The schools were authorized to offer the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme after a rigorous, multiyear application process. The IB program encourages critical thinking and helps to prepare students for postsecondary life in a global society.

In all, MPS now has 11 International Baccalaureate school sites with 15 IB programs: five grade schools in the IB Primary Years Programme for students 3–12 years old, four in the Middle Years Programme for students 11–16, four in the Diploma Programme for ages 16–19, and two in the Career-related Programme for ages 16–19.

MPS Day One Early Start Kickoff



Community stakeholders, state government leaders, and school leaders, along with cheerleaders and mascots, convened at Bay View High School to welcome students back to school on Monday, August 14. Milwaukee Public Schools began the new year for schools on the early start calendar, which includes all high schools, grades 6–8 middle schools, kindergarten–grade 12 schools, and several elementary schools.

Bay View students walked the red carpet lined with supporters as they were cheered into school on the first day of the 2023–24 school year. The crowd included several influential Bay View High School alumni and other elected officials, many of whom were graduates of MPS.

Speakers, other guests, and Milwaukee media also toured two Bay View High School classrooms after the program: the Spanish language and culinary arts classrooms. Students in the culinary arts wowed guests with their food talents by serving up a hot breakfast of eggs, rice, bacon, and sausage.