

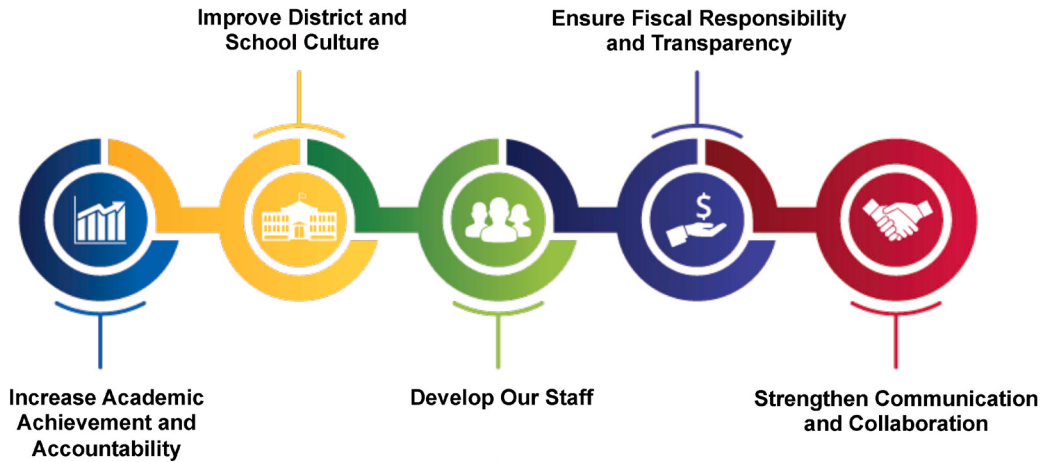


MILWAUKEE PUBLIC SCHOOLS



### Superintendent's Report – February

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 district improvement efforts. This month, some of the schools I visited include the **Academy of Accelerated Learning, James Madison Academic Campus** and **Golda Meir**.

At Golda Meir, **Dr. Vince Bertram, the president and chief executive officer of Project Lead the Way (PLTW)**, along with PLTW executive leaders and members of my team visited classrooms for a special event to celebrate our students' STEM work.



## EVENTS/PROGRAMS/ANNOUNCEMENTS



### Black Lives Matter at School Week

**Black Lives Matter at School** week events hosted by Milwaukee Public Schools and its partners had widespread participation February 4–8 and included families, staff, students, Board members, and the community. Special thanks to those many individuals who planned and participated in these opportunities to engage in solution based discussions.



View our *Black Lives Matter* video:  
<https://tinyurl.com/MPS-BLM-Video>

### City Review

The **MPS City Review** took place on Monday, February 18 at the UWM Panther Area. It was a festive atmosphere as our student athletes engaged one exciting game after another! This was an excellent opportunity for Milwaukee Public Schools to highlight our student athletes and have fun while supporting them. Kudos to our participating teams — **Hamilton, Madison, Obama SCTE, Riverside, Rufus King, Vincent, and Washington** for their excellent play and sportsmanship.



**Final Scores** (Boys) **Madison 113** Obama SCTE 46; **Washington 83** Riverside 54; **Hamilton 72** King 66 (Girls) **King 83** Vincent 55

### Ca\$h for College Campaign

February kicks off the annual **Ca\$h for College Campaign** at high schools across the district. The cost of college is a barrier to attendance for many students. Scholarships reduce the cost of college and assist with eliminating this burden. During February and March, MPS high schools will select a week to host events during the school day for seniors to search out and apply for scholarships.

Learn more about scholarships available to MPS students.



## AWARDS/RECOGNITION

### Teacher Kelly O'Keefe Boettcher honored for dedication to Dr. King

At **Rufus King International Baccalaureate High School**, teacher **Kelly O'Keefe Boettcher** was surprised in front of her class by **Principal Tanzanique Carrington** and representatives from the Marcus Center. O'Keefe Boettcher was honored as 2019 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Teacher of the Year for her dedication to teaching students about the life and beliefs of Dr. King. During her 20 years of teaching in MPS, King's legacy has been an important part of her curriculum.



O'Keefe Boettcher, an English teacher, has actively encouraged her students to take part in the annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Art, Speech, and Writing contests. Paul Mathews, President & CEO of the Marcus Center, and Anthony Smith of the Marcus Center were on hand to present Tyler with a plaque, flowers, and tickets to the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts.

## MFIS Students Excel on International French Exams



**Milwaukee French Immersion School** honored 126 students for high achievement on DELF exams. **Guillaume Lacroix, Consul General of France in Chicago,**

paid a visit to the school to take part in the ceremony and congratulate students. A total of 42 second graders and 84 fourth and fifth graders qualified for diploma status. Parents and families were on hand to celebrate their children's accomplishments.

DELF is an internationally recognized exam that grants a diploma for French proficiency. The program is overseen by the French Ministry of Education.

Exams were taken in May 2018, to assess achievement in reading, writing, understanding, and speaking French.

Milwaukee French Immersion School celebrated its 40th anniversary in 2018 and offers kindergarten through fifth grade.



## Students Tappers Pull Out All the Stops for Mad Hot Tap Competition

They weren't dancing in the street, but a gathering of nearly 1,000 fourth and fifth graders from 39 Milwaukee schools managed to transform the UWM Panther Arena into a dance party during the annual **Danceworks Mad Hot Tap Competition.**

The students dazzled their family and friends with hip hop, Latin, and swing styles they learned through the Danceworks Mad Hot Ballroom and Tap Program.



Danceworks has delivered high-quality ballroom and tap dance programs to MPS students for more than 12 years. Through the Mad Hot program, hundreds of children gain access to formal dance training — most of them have never been in a dance class before. Students develop confidence and showmanship while also experiencing the value of practice and hard work. Students take a one-hour class twice weekly during the fall semester (at no cost, thanks to generous funders) and they learn routines for each style of tap dance in preparation for the competition.

The Mad Hot Tap program is known to motivate students to excel in their schoolwork and help drive up attendance. Joyful arts experiences inspire students' creativity, promote a love of learning, and encourage discipline that will serve them well in the classroom and throughout their lives.

Congratulations to all Mad Hot winners, especially **MacDowell Montessori**, the overall winner of the Mad Hot Tap competition!



HIP HOP		LATIN		SWING	
First Place	MacDowell Montessori	First Place	St. Martini Lutheran	First Place	Fifty-Third Street School
Second Place	Carter's Christian	Second Place	MacDowell Montessori	Second Place	Roosevelt Elementary
Third Place	Fifty-Third Street School	Third Place	Milwaukee French Immersion	Third Place	MacDowell Montessori

## AWARDS/RECOGNITION

### Black Excellence Awards



The *Milwaukee Times* presented the **34th Annual Black Excellence Awards** at the Italian Community Center. This year's theme was "The Excellence of Imagination, Boldness, and Innovation: Honoring our Entrepreneurs" and the special honoree category was "Milwaukee's Urban Entrepreneurs," highlighting the contributions of local business owners and the positive impact they have had on the community.

As part of the 34th annual Black Excellence Awards, the following student recipients of the Louvenia Johnson Scholarship fund were featured:



<b>Abdilkarim Ali, South Division HS</b>
<b>Jeanessa Grant, Riverside University HS</b>
<b>Marissa Morgan, Non-MPS</b>
<b>Jaya Owens, Golda Meir HS</b>
<b>Mia Rimmer, Rufus King HS</b>
<b>Rahsaan Roberson-Teague, MacDowell Montessori HS</b>

<b>Jordyn Smith, Non-MPS</b>
<b>Edward Rogers, Jr., Rufus King HS</b>
<b>Benjamin Thompson, Rufus King HS</b>
<b>Ashanti Travers, Pulaski HS</b>
<b>Myles Walker, Golda Meir HS</b>

### NOVA Tech Update

**NOVA Tech** was established as a non-instrumentality charter school beginning with the 2014–15 school year. The current contract with TransCenter for Youth, Inc. for NOVA Tech is for up to a maximum of 100 students in grades 9 through 12. The term of the current contract is to expire on the last regularly scheduled day of the 2018–19 school year.

On January 14, 2019, Administration received written communication from TransCenter for Youth, Inc. notifying MPS of TransCenter's request for non-renewal of the non-instrumentality charter school contract to be effective on the last regularly scheduled day of the 2018–19 school year.

The Administration will work with NOVA Tech staff to ensure a strong finish to the school year and for students scheduled to graduate complete this year successfully, and to assist families in finding a school placement for the fall.

## Calendar Modifications Update

At a special Board meeting on February 12, 2019, the Milwaukee Board of School Directors approved adjustments to the 2018-19 school calendars as a result of the school closures due to inclement weather. The revised 2018-19 school calendar was communicated with families, students, and staff.

Page 5 displays the modified Traditional calendar. Pages 6-7 display the modified Early Start calendars (elementary schools) and modified Early Start calendar (high schools).

Additional follow up will be shared as part of this update.



### Changes to the MPS 2018-19 School Calendar Students in Grades K-8 on the Traditional Calendar

To accommodate for six school days that were cancelled due to extreme winter weather, MPS is modifying the calendar for the remainder of the 2018-19 school year to ensure that all students receive the number of instructional hours required by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction.

Beginning Monday, February 25, 2019, five additional instructional minutes will be added to each school day.

Changes to the calendar are below. Please contact your school for any specific questions.



### Modified FEBRUARY 2019 2018-19 Traditional District Calendar

- Feb 18 **Mid-Semester Break**
- Feb 19 Professional Development Day – *Now full student attendance day*
- March 15 **Parent-Teacher Conference Day**
- April 2 Professional Development Day – *Now full student attendance day*
- April 15-22 **Spring Recess**
- May 27 Memorial Day
- June 12 Former Last Student Day – *Now full student attendance day*
- June 13 Record Day – *Now full student attendance day and Last Student Day*
- June 14 Professional Development Day – *Now Record Day for staff (no student attendance)*

**February 2019**

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28		

**March 2019**

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24/31	25	26	27	28	29	30

**April 2019**

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

**May 2019**

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

**June 2019**

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23/30	24	25	26	27	28	29

Calendar dates may change due to inclement weather, etc. Please stay in touch with your school for updates. Some teacher workdays are shaded. Individual schools may have additional non-attendance days which do not appear on this calendar. Also, methods and dates for distributing report cards may vary from school to school. STAFF: Refer to staff calendars for details on non-student attendance days.



# Changes to the MPS 2018–19 School Calendar

## Students in Grades K–8 on the Early Start Calendar

To accommodate for six school days that were cancelled due to extreme winter weather, MPS is modifying the calendar for the remainder of the 2018–19 school year to ensure that all students receive the number of instructional hours required by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction.

Beginning Monday, February 25, 2019, five additional instructional minutes will be added to each school day.



Changes to the calendar are below. Please contact your school for any specific questions.

### Modified FEBRUARY 2019 2018–19 Early Start District Calendar

- Feb 18 **Mid-Semester Break**
- Feb 19 Professional Development Day – *Now full student attendance day*
- March 15 Parent-Teacher Conference Day
- April 2 Professional Development Day – *Now full student attendance day*
- April 15–22 **Spring Recess**
- May 22 Former Last Student Day– *Full student attendance day*
- May 23 Record Day – *Now full student attendance day and Last Student Day*
- May 24 Professional Development Day – *Now Record Day for staff (no student attendance)*

February 2019

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	1	2

March 2019

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24/31	25	26	27	28	29	30

April 2019

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

May 2019

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

June 2019

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23/30	24	25	26	27	28	29

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## Changes to the MPS 2018–19 School Calendar Students in Grades 9–12 on the Early Start Calendar

To accommodate for six school days that were cancelled due to extreme winter weather, MPS is modifying the calendar for the remainder of the 2018–19 school year to ensure that all students receive the number of instructional hours required by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction.

Beginning Monday, February 25, 2019, 12 additional instructional minutes will be added to each school day.

**+12**  
MINUTES

Changes to the calendar are below. Please contact your school for any specific questions.

**Modified**  
FEBRUARY 2019

### 2018–19 Early Start District Calendar

- Feb 18 **Mid-Semester Break**
- Feb 19 Professional Development Day – *Now full student attendance day*
- March 15 Parent-Teacher Conference Day
- April 2 Professional Development Day – *Now full student attendance day*
- April 15–22 **Spring Recess**
- May 20–21 High School Exam Days – *Now full student attendance days*
- May 22 Former Last Student Day – *Now student attendance day — Half-day only for exams*
- May 23 Record Day – *Now student attendance day — Half-day only for exams*
- May 24 Professional Development Day – *Now student attendance day — Half-day only for exams and Last Student Day*

February 2019

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	1	2

March 2019

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24/31	25	26	27	28	29	30

April 2019

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

May 2019

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

June 2019

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23/30	24	25	26	27	28	29

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