



**MILWAUKEE  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**



## Superintendent's Report – February 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.



## MPS Celebrates Black History Month

Black History Month is coming alive in Milwaukee Public Schools! Students and staff across the district are planning and taking part in projects and performances to honor the contributions of Black Americans who have helped build our country and promote peace and equality.

## MPS's "Black Lives Matter at School" Week of Action

The Milwaukee community participated in opportunities to listen, learn, and add their voices to the Black Lives Matter narrative to bring about positive change. Leading off Black History Month in February, the national Black Lives Matter at School week of action, February 6–10, 2023, was designed to engage communities in discussions about the injustices of race, class, and gender.

Activities focused on improving the school experience for students of color. Topics centered on the Black Lives Matter at School guiding principles based upon the Black Lives Matter movement.

MPS wishes to congratulate Brenda Robbins of Roosevelt Middle School for winning the Black Lives Matter at School logo contest. Her design appears on T-shirts available to MPS students and staff.



## **National School Counseling Week February 6–10**

Every day, school counselors help children find success in school. National School Counseling Week, sponsored by the American School Counselor Association, was February 6–10, 2023. This year’s theme, School Counselors: Helping Students Dream Big, highlights the tremendous impact that school counselors can have in helping students achieve in school and plan for future success. School counselors promote success by seeing each child for their own needs and taking steps to meet those needs.

Throughout the school year, counselors are actively engaged in helping students to examine their abilities, strengths, interests, and talents; working in partnership with parents; focusing on positive ways to enhance students’ academic, career, and social/emotional development; and working with educators to provide an educational system in which students can realize their potential.

MPS is proud of the work being done every day by school counselors to help students achieve in school and support their personal well-being. Thank you, counselors!

## **“We Are the Drum” February 24–26**

Talented Milwaukee singers, dancers, actors, and choreographers are preparing to wow audiences with this year’s production of “We Are the Drum.” This annual high-energy musical revue promises an exciting evening of music and dance. Performances run February 24–26, 2023, at Milwaukee Marshall High School, 4141 N. 64th Street, Milwaukee.

Students of all ages from a number of MPS schools will be performing in this year’s show. “We Are the Drum” is a community program offered by City at Peace in the Arts (CAPITA) Productions, a nonprofit organization with the mission of bridging cultural gaps, uniting Milwaukee area youth, and offering a constructive outlet for creative expression.

Talented staff members and volunteers bring their energy to develop the talents of children who participate. A fee is not charged for children who take part in the show.

See the [CAPITA Productions website for information, showtimes, and tickets](#) or visit the [CAPITA productions Facebook page](#).

## **Youth Apprenticeships and Internships**

We are excited to share that 32 students participated in an apprenticeship and 168 students participated in an internship during the first semester of the 2022–23 school year. These apprenticeships and internships varied in the fields of interest. The fields included hospitality and tourism; health sciences; transportation, distribution, and logistics; agriculture, food, and nutrition resources; arts, audiovisual technology, and communications; manufacturing; informational technology; education and training; finance; STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics); and law, public safety, corrections, and security. We will continue to work with our youth and partnerships to place more students in internships and apprenticeships.

## **Spelling Bee Finals Are Just Around the Corner**

The MPS 2023 Districtwide Spelling Bee Finals, scheduled for April 15 and 22, 2023, are quickly approaching. This event will be held at Harold S. Vincent High School on Saturday, April 15, for students in grades 3–5 and on Saturday, April 22, for students in grades 6–8. Over thirty schools will participate in the MPS 2023 Districtwide Spelling Bee Finals.

If you are interested in being a part of the “buzz,” volunteer opportunities are available. Please contact Dr. Patricia Ellis, director of the Department of Equity, Access, and Inclusion, at [ellispa@milwaukee.k12.wi.us](mailto:ellispa@milwaukee.k12.wi.us).