

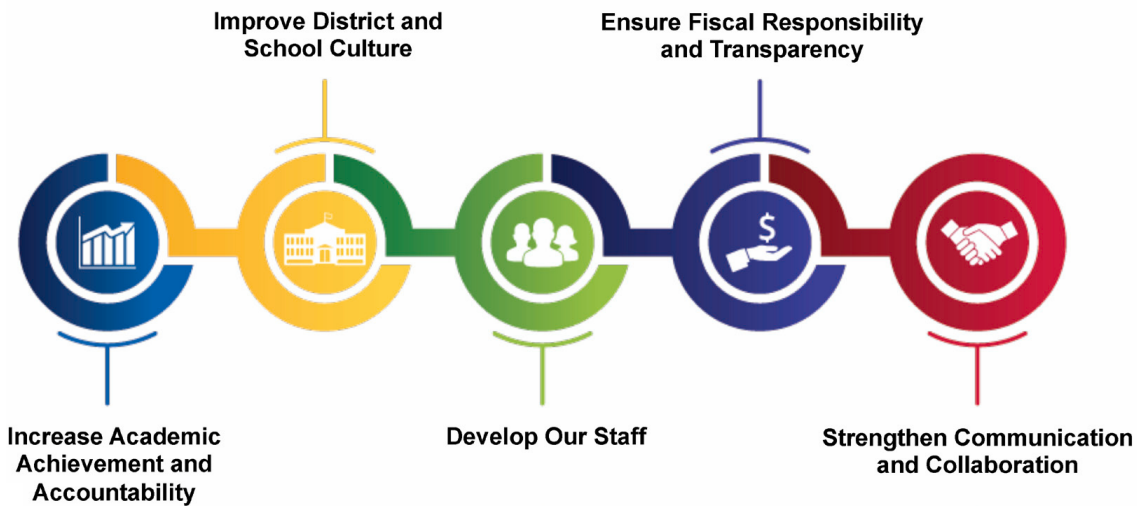


**MILWAUKEE  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**



## Superintendent's Report – March 2020

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 that I had the opportunity to visit include Marshall High School, North Division High School, and South Division High School.

## MPS Graduation Rate Continues Upward Trend

The four-year graduation rate in Milwaukee Public Schools rose to 69.1 percent for the Class of 2019 according to new data released on March 10, 2020, by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI). This marks an increase of 2.4 percent over the 2018 graduation rate of 66.7 percent, and an increase of 10.9 percent over the 2015 graduation rate of 58.2 percent.

As reported on the [WISEdash](#) public portal maintained by the Wisconsin DPI, the MPS four-year graduation data for the class of 2019 also showed increases in



graduation rates for Black and Hispanic students, students with disabilities, and economically disadvantaged students since 2015. Black and Hispanic students experienced an increase in graduation rate of 11.5 percent for both groups; students with disabilities showed a 10.5 percent increase; and a 10 percent increase was shown for economically disadvantaged students.

MPS is experiencing success through a number of offerings that engage students to increase high school graduation:

- **Advanced Programs:** More MPS schools offer Advanced Placement (AP) courses and International Baccalaureate (IB) courses.
- **College & Career Access Centers:** Students gain ready access to information about college, career, and scholarship opportunities.
- **Dual Credit Opportunities:** Through programming offered by M<sup>3</sup> (a collaboration among MPS, Milwaukee Area Technical College, and the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee), students can earn 19 college credits during the 2019–20 school year.
- **Freshman Bridge:** This two-day summer program helps incoming freshmen prepare for high school success by spending time in their schools, meeting teachers, understanding academic and behavior expectations, exploring academic and career planning, and preparing for the important transition to high school.
- **Career Pathways:** In collaboration with community partners, the district continues to expand programs that give students hands-on work experiences in the culinary arts, construction, information technology, healthcare, manufacturing, and more.

## **School Social Workers Light the Way for Students**

In a school district of nearly 76,000 students, how does Milwaukee Public Schools ensure that the needs of every child are being met? That important effort belongs to school social workers. This month we celebrated National School Social Work Week to show our appreciation for the highly skilled men and women who make our students' lives better every day. Thank you, school social workers!

MPS is proud of the role our social workers play in the success of our students, and the entire district is grateful for their service!



## Update on Coronavirus (COVID-19)

To help prevent the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19), all MPS schools will be closed from March 16 to April 13, 2020. Schools are scheduled to reopen on Tuesday, April 14, after the scheduled district spring break.

In MPS, as many as 76,000 students receive free breakfast and lunch in school daily. To support families who rely on school meals for their children, MPS is distributing a packaged breakfast and lunch at 20 sites across the city Monday through Friday from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.



Families can select any convenient location from the list below to pick up breakfast and lunch items for MPS students. In an effort for students to continue learning during this closure, sites will also offer instructional materials to support grade-level to take home.

### **Breakfast and Lunch Distribution Sites**

#### **School Name**

#### **School Address**

ALBA	1712 S. 32nd St.
Barbee Montessori	4456 N. Teutonia Ave.
Bay View High School	2751 S. Lenox St.
Browning	5440 N. 64th St.
Douglas	3620 N. 18th St
Engleburg	5100 N. 91st St.
Gaenslen	1250 E. Burleigh St.
Hamilton H. S.	6215 W. Warnimont Ave.
MacDowell Montessori	6415 W. Mount Vernon Ave.
Marshall H.S.	4141 N. 64th St.
Morse	6700 N. 80th St.
North Division H. S.	1011 W. Center St.
Obama SCTE H. S.	5075 N. Sherman Blvd.
Pulaski H.S.	2500 W. Oklahoma Ave.
Reagan H. S.	4965 S. 20th St.
South Division H. S.	1515 W. Lapham Blvd.
Thoreau	7878 N. 60th St.
Vincent H. S.	7501 N. Granville Rd.
Washington H.S.	2525 N. Sherman Blvd.
Wisconsin Conservatory of Lifelong Learning (WCLL)	1017 N. 12th St.

## MPS Celebrates Read Across America Day and Dr. Seuss

During the first week of March, MPS students took part in national Read Across America Day. The annual event, sponsored by the National Education Association, encourages activities in classrooms to get children excited about reading. The celebration coincides with the birthday of famed children's author Dr. Seuss.

At Clara Barton School, the Cat in the Hat paid a visit along with Thing 1 and Thing 2. Together, they visited classrooms, entertained students, and shared favorite books. Barton also invited families, friends, and dignitaries to the school to read specially selected books to students. Volunteer readers included State Senator Lena Taylor, State Representative David Crowley, representatives from the Milwaukee Brewers Foundation, MPS administrators, community members, and parents.



Read Across America Day also supported Barton's ongoing reading contest, the Mystery Mural 4,000 Reading Challenge. Students are working toward a goal of 4,000 books, with prizes and incentives being awarded for reading. A beautiful mural is in progress, with students adding stickers as books are read to complete a wall-sized work of art.

Mary McLeod Bethune Academy also invited a number of special guests to visit and read books to students. About 25 family members, partners, friends, and staff volunteered to spend time sharing exciting books with children. Milwaukee Police Department District 3 Captain Jeffrey Norman was among those who shared the gift of reading with students.



The entire student body and staff of Escuela Vieau School gathered on the football field of Bradley Technology and Trade School to celebrate Dr. Seuss's birthday in a very special way. For the past 13 years, Vieau School has promoted literacy through a celebration that has grown from a one-day event to a week-long extravaganza including a carnival, obstacle course, movies, cake decorating competition, and parade. Vieau is proud of its Seuss week event, which is a memorable time for students that they look forward to all year long!

These are just a few examples of the many wonderful events that took place throughout the district to celebrate Reading Across America Day!

Happy Birthday, Dr. Seuss!

## Kareem Abdul-Jabbar Celebrates Black History Month with MPS students

South Division High School welcomed former Milwaukee Bucks player and NBA legend Kareem Abdul-Jabbar on February 28, 2020. Students took part in activities that included a roundtable discussion with Jabbar in celebration of Black History Month.

A six-time NBA Champion, NBA All-Star, and one of the greatest players in NBA history, Jabbar has made continuous efforts advocating for racial and religious issues within our country. As a best-selling author and the executive producer of the documentary “Black Patriots: Heroes of the Revolution,” he has shown his passion for racial and religious equality, education, and advocacy efforts.



As part of South Division’s Black History Month event, students Vel Song and Malaya Hunter sang the Black National Anthem in front of Jabbar and their fellow students. Pulaski High School alumnus Rashawn Jackson read his original poem entitled “This Generation.” Prior to the event, students watched and reflected on Jabbar’s documentary. This led students to engage in an open discussion with Jabbar on the theme “Shoulder to Shoulder.” Students then had the opportunity to ask Jabbar questions about his documentary, his NBA career, and how he manages to get involved and give back to others during retirement.

Students were excited to meet and engage with Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and learn about his personal journey and to ask for advice as they prepare to venture out on their own. At the end of the event, students and faculty presented Jabbar with an award and his very own South Division Cardinals attire. Jabbar personally presented all students at the event with an autographed cap. The event was an uplifting celebration to close Black History Month.

## Special Education Family Forum



Special education was the focus of MPS’ 4th Annual Celebrating Abilities event on March 7, 2020 at Milwaukee Marshall High School. More than 37 community agencies were present to provide information and workshops. This resource fair provided families the opportunity to learn more about special education services, programs, and summer opportunities.

Attendees were able to access a wide range of community resources and network with other families who have children requiring special education programs.

The event was a collaboration uniting MPS, Alianza Latino Aplicando Soluciones, Disability Rights Wisconsin, Milwaukee County, the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, WI Facets, Wisconsin Statewide Parent Educator Initiative, Regional Centers for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs, and the U.S. Department of Education.

## **“We Are the Drum” Celebrates Community Theater**

Milwaukee students and families put on an amazing production of “We Are the Drum” through many hours of hard work and rehearsals. For the many individuals who had the opportunity to attend this year’s show, it proved to be an exciting evening of music and dance in a community setting.

Students of all ages from a number of MPS schools performed in this year’s show. The goal of show organizers was to offer a theater experience rivaling a Las Vegas production.



“We Are the Drum” is a community program offered by CAPITA Productions, a nonprofit organization with the mission of bridging cultural gaps, uniting Milwaukee area youth, and offering a constructive outlet for creative expression. The name CAPITA stands for City at Peace in the Arts. Kevin C. Williams, CAPITA director, recruited students, hosted rehearsals, and prepared for the show for several months. He was assisted by staff members and volunteers motivated to develop the talents of children who participate.

