



**MILWAUKEE  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**



### Superintendent’s Report –February 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 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. Click [here](#) to read about what students at Fernwood Montessori and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. School did to celebrate. We are proud of the efforts of our schools in bringing Black History Month to life.

### MCTS Announces Winners of Rosa Parks Tribute Scholarship Essay Contest

On civil rights pioneer Rosa Parks’ birthday, which is also National Transit Equity Day, Milwaukee County Transit System (MCTS) announced the winners of its first-ever Rosa Parks Tribute

Scholarship essay contest.

High school seniors in Milwaukee County who will attend a trade school, college, or university were invited to submit a short essay inspired by Parks' famous quote, "Each person must live their life as a model for others."

More than 50 essays were submitted and reviewed by a diverse panel of staff from MCTS, the Milwaukee County Department of Transportation, and the Milwaukee County Office on African American Affairs.

The following MPS students were chosen to each receive a \$1,000 scholarship towards their higher education:

Kayla Jimenez – Ronald Reagan High School

Anya Ramos – Audubon Technology and Communication High School

Iman Snobar – Ronald Reagan High School

The essay contest provided an opportunity to honor those who came before us – like Rosa Parks – and invest in our future leaders who will guide us in achieving racial equity.

Rosa Parks was arrested on December 1, 1955, after refusing to give up her seat to a white man in Montgomery, Alabama. Her small act of civil disobedience led to a landmark Supreme Court ruling that outlawed segregation on public transportation.

Every year, on December 1 — recognized nationally as Rosa Parks Day — MCTS honors Parks by reserving a seat on board all buses in its fleet. Each reserved seat includes a red rose and a placard that features Parks' photo and a message about her courageous act.

### **2021 Milwaukee Times Newspaper Black Excellence Louvenia Johnson Scholarship Winners**

Ten MPS students were selected to receive 2021 Louvenia Johnson Scholarships as part of the prestigious Milwaukee Times Newspaper 2021 Black Excellence Awards. The rigorous process includes an essay, exceptional grades, a summary of accomplishments and volunteer service, as well as nominations from a principal, counselor, teacher, pastor, mentor, or advisor. We are proud of the following MPS students for being selected to receive a 2021 Louvenia Johnson Scholarship:

Janae Adams – Rufus King International High School

David Alepembwe – Bradley Tech High School

Trinay Austin – Madison Academic High School

Shaylin Crosby – Rufus King International School

Jonillia Davis – Bradley Tech High School

Leroy Hope – Milwaukee School of Languages

Jakobie Jackson – Golda Meir High School

Anyiah Lobley – Golda Meir High School

Jalen Reed – Rufus King International High School

Fardowso Shidad – Rufus King International High School

The Lester L. Carter, Jr., Scholarship is also awarded as part of the Black Excellence Awards each year. This year's winner was Joshua Wilder, a Riverside University High School Student.

Congratulations to all of these student leaders!

### **Money is Available For College Through the FAFSA!**

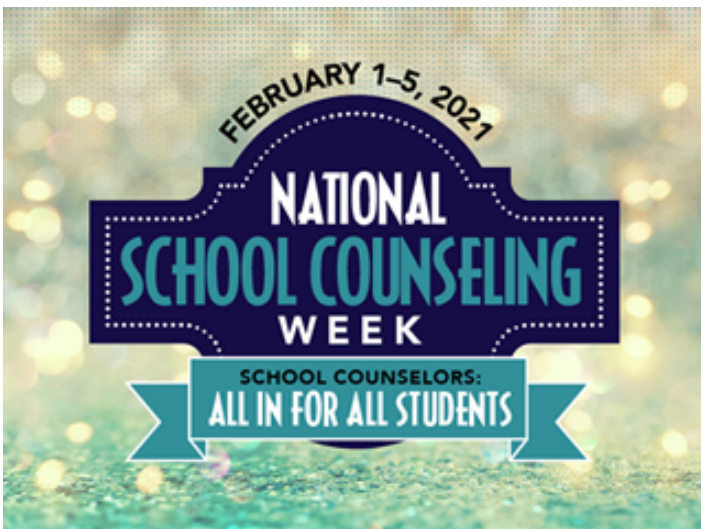


High school seniors dreaming of college or career should fill out the FAFSA to find money available to pay for school. The Free Application for Federal Student Aid, better known as FAFSA, is the first step on the road to college. This application determines eligibility for grants and loans and is used by colleges across the country to develop each student's financial aid package.

Rayona Howled is a graduate of MPS South Division High School who is currently attending Alverno College. She says that filling out the FAFSA made it possible for her to pay for her education. "My counselors pushed me to apply because it's so important. Filling it out isn't difficult if you take your time," she said. "There's no way I could pay for college if not for FAFSA. FAFSA gave me the opportunity to further my education and I'm very grateful. I want to tell other students to go for it!"

MPS has College and Career Centers in 20 high schools to help students fill out the FAFSA, explore colleges, write essays, and complete college applications. Virtual access varies by school. MPS students can contact any College & Career Center to get the help they need from a college and career advisor. For more information about College & Career Center locations, hours, and services, visit the MPS [College & Career Centers page](#).

### **School Counselors Are Spotlighted**



Thank you to MPS school counselors! Every day, school counselors impact the lives of students and help children find success in school.

National School Counseling Week, sponsored by the American School Counselor Association (ASCA), took place February 1–5, 2021. This allowed the opportunity to focus public attention on the unique contributions of professional school counselors within schools in helping students achieve in school, navigate life, and plan for a career. School counselors promote success by seeing each child for his or her own needs and taking steps to meet those needs, whether a new backpack or comfort after the loss of a loved one.

During a typical school year, counselors are actively engaged in working with parents to understand a child's personal situation; in focusing on positive ways to enhance students' social/personal, educational, and career development; and in working with teachers and other educators so students

can realize their potential and set healthy aspirations for themselves. The training and experience of school counselors makes them an integral part of the total education program.

### **Congratulations Lois Womack, a Winner of the 2020 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching!**

Congratulations to Lois Womack of Marvin Pratt Elementary School! Womack is one of five Wisconsin educators named by State Superintendent Carolyn Stanford Taylor for the 2020 Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. The award is considered the highest honor bestowed by the U.S. government for math and science teachers.



Womack is a Milwaukee Public Schools alumna who attended Hopkins and Maple Tree Elementary schools, and her parents were both MPS educators. She started with the district in 1994 and has served at several schools and in the Office of Academics as a math teaching specialist. She has taught a 4th- and 5th-grade split class for five years and is especially passionate about math, which has always been her focus. [Read more here](#).

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

Milwaukee Public Schools hosted two virtual Kindergarten Enrollment Fairs on February 6 and 20, 2021, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The Fair helped 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 were available to video chat so families could ask questions, learn about programs, and identify the best options for their children. Families had the chance to speak directly with school staff. Families learned about the many programs and offerings in 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.

