



**MILWAUKEE  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**



## Superintendent's Report – December 2022

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.



## 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Day of Code

How do traffic signals know when to change? How do computer games respond to a player's commands? The answers lie in sophisticated computer language known as code. Even the simplest computerized technology is just a pile of parts without complex code to provide instructions that make it operate. On December 1, 2022, MPS students showed off their coding skills and brought the process to life through a livestream Day of Code.

Leading up to Computer Science Education Week, December 5–9, 2022, student ambassadors from Hamilton High School, Gwen T. Jackson School, Milwaukee High School of the Arts, and Milwaukee School of Languages offered presentations and demonstrations for students and staff in MPS. Computer Science Education Week is promoted by Code.org, a nonprofit organization dedicated to expanding computer science education.

Returning for a third year as emcee for the event was Nadiyah Johnson, a graduate of Rufus King High School and founder of the Milky Way Tech Hub and Jet Constellations. The computer science industry is proactively engaging with girls and people of color to explore coding as a career path, and Ms. Johnson is one of those leading the way.

MPS has a wide range of technology and computer science classes available to students and anticipates an increase in the number of schools participating in the Day of Code as students learn more about computer science and coding.

[View this year's Day of Code projects!](#)

## Verizon Innovation Learning Lab

Coding is only one part of digital technology. As MPS continues to grow our STEM, coding, computer science, and overall technology curriculum, we continue to work with partners, vendors, and stakeholders to deliver the best possible resources to students.

MPS is dedicated to providing the best possible education to our students and preparing them for the digital work force. Working with Verizon, Heart of America, and the J. Orin Edson Entrepreneurship and Innovation Institute, MPS opened on December 15, 2022, its second Verizon Innovation Learning Lab. Longfellow School now joins Oliver Wendell Holmes School with this access to emerging state-of-the-art technology.

Labs and technology such as that supplied by Verizon will help us to advance our students' in-depth understanding of technology and close the digital gap that exists among our students. We are looking forward to a continued partnership with Verizon as we work to provide advanced technology options to our students across the district.

## Battle of the Drumlines



On Saturday, December 10, 2022, five schools performed in the Battle of the Drumlines. Of those, two—MacDowell Montessori School and Milwaukee Parkside School for the Arts—were exhibition schools that received valuable feedback from the judges in preparation of future entry into the competition.

The competition was intense among the three remaining schools: Riverside University High School, Reagan High School, and Rufus King High School. All schools received recognition and participation trophies, but only one got to take the grand prize of the traveling trophy. It was a narrow win for one of these talented schools.

Riverside made a fierce showing in the competition but had to render the win to Rufus King High School, which narrowly beat Reagan High School by .75 points.

The stands were filled with hundreds of spectators who cheered for the drumlines, moved to the beat of the drums, and showed their support through cheers, chants, and stomps. People enjoy this competition for the showcasing of schools while others come for the drums and many others attend for the students.

This competition is an intricate part of our music program and demonstrates the hard work put forth by our music department over the years, the need for music, and the impact that music can have on the success of a student. Music and the ability to play an instrument is a lifelong skill as was demonstrated by alumni who returned and performed in this year's event. #MPSPROUD

## **Kindergarten Enrollment Fair Coming February 4, 2023**



We believe that it is never too early to begin recruiting families to enroll their children in MPS. Families that have children turning three, four, or five by September 1, 2023, can get ready to enroll beginning February 4, 2023, at this year's Kindergarten Enrollment Fair, to be held at North Division High School, 1011 West Center Street.

The fair helps families explore schools, learn about available programs, identify best options, and ask questions helping to ensure they are comfortable and confident about their school choices. Additionally, families will have the chance to speak directly with school staff and get help filling out enrollment forms. Interpreters will be available.

For questions about enrollment or the Kindergarten Enrollment Fair, families may call 414-475-8159 or visit [mpsmke.com/enrolltoday](https://mpsmke.com/enrolltoday).