



**MILWAUKEE
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**



Superintendent’s Report – March 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.

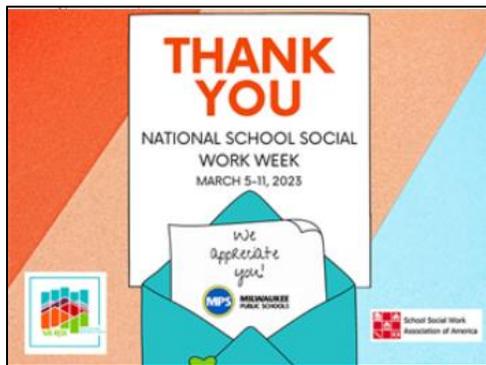


National Days in March

Several observances take place during the month of March, starting with National Women’s History Month. National Women’s History Month was proclaimed in 1980 first as National Women’s History Week to recognize the importance of women in American history and the teaching of women’s history in schools across America. National Women’s History Month also correlates with International Women’s Day, March 8, which recognizes women’s achievements without regard to divisions, whether national, ethnic, linguistic, cultural, economic, or political.

Within the month of March, we also recognize National School Breakfast Week and National School Social Work Week. National School Breakfast Week, March 6–10, is a time to recognize our very own Department of Nutrition Services for providing students with a nutritious breakfast daily. The school breakfast program is critical to the health and education of students, giving them the energy source needed to start their day of learning.





In every MPS school, social workers are crucial members of the school teams. During School Social Work Week, which took place March 5–11, MPS social workers were recognized throughout the district for being vital in the lives of many of our students. Students and families may have various needs with which school social workers can assist through listening carefully, helping to address needs, locating resources, or providing supports. Meeting these needs has shown to increase children’s academic achievement and help them to thrive.

We want to take a moment to recognize the women, nutrition staff, and school social workers who continue to work for the success of our students and to make differences in the lives of others each day. Thank you!

Wisconsin School Music Association—WSMA

Music is an important part of the school curriculum. For many students, music can be either a passion or a hobby, but for all children who find music to be of particular interest, it is a language—a way to communicate and express oneself. Being introduced to music can make the difference for many children.

On Saturday, March 4, the Milwaukee Public Schools music department hosted the Wisconsin School Music Association Solo and Ensemble Festival at Rufus King High School. More than 500 MPS student musicians from 15 schools performed for adjudication. Of the 500 student musicians who participated, 99 were selected to perform at the state competition on April 29, 2023.

We congratulate all of the student musicians who participated and wish good luck to the 99 musicians moving on to the state competition.

Twentieth Annual Special Needs Prom

Washington High School will host the twentieth annual MPS district-wide prom for students with significant disabilities on Friday, March 24, 2023, from 6:00 to 9:30 p.m. Last year’s prom hosted nearly 200 guests, and this year we are anticipating more than 200 participants. This year’s theme is “A Night at the MPSPYS,” a nod to the ESPYs, where students will showcase their fashion sense and engage in an evening of dining, dancing, photos, and awards. Join in the fun and see our students shine at the MPSPYS.

Tickets are \$5 in advance and \$10 at the door. For more information, contact Heidi Cumbajin at cumbajh1@milwaukee.k12.wi.us.

MPS Poetry Slam

MPS hosted its first annual poetry slam for students in K–grade 12. Students were invited to submit by March 8, 2023, an original poem or short piece of writing for publication and/or presentation. Selected participants received notification of their selection during the week of March 13, 2023. Five students were selected from each grade band (K–2, 3–5, 6–8, and 9–12) for a total of 20 participants.

The poetry slam was an opportunity for students to share their voice by combining their academic learning with their creativity to develop a piece that showcases their integrated talent. This event was held at Milwaukee Public Schools Central Services auditorium from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 22, 2023.

Multicultural Exposition Fair



Milwaukee Public Schools is continuing its work with the Seal of Bilingual Literacy program. This year, MPS is hosting the first districtwide Multicultural Exposition Fair. Students at this event will present cultural projects in sociocultural competency, one of the three components necessary to prove proficiency for graduating with the Seal of Bilingual Literacy.

The Multicultural Exposition Fair will take place at South Division High School on Saturday, March 25, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. MPS invites all staff and community members to take part in this amazing event to learn about the cultures of those languages represented in the Seal of Bilingual Literacy this year.

Winter Sports

The following winter sports have now concluded their seasons: girls'/boys' basketball, boys' swimming, and girls'/boys' wrestling. The 21 MPS City Conference programs had over 1,500 participants with several individuals making it to state tournaments in swimming and wrestling. We also witnessed Hamilton boys' basketball win the sectional semifinals as they took us on a thrilling run to the sectional championships where they played their talent but fell just short of making an appearance at the state tournament. We are extremely proud of all our student-athletes and are looking forward to spring sports.

Summer Academy

Registration for Summer Academy is now open. Opportunities for all students are available that include Montessori, English as a second language, special education, and bilingual programming.

High school students may participate in programs that include credit acceleration, career camps, internships, or credit recovery courses.

- Session I: June 6–22, 2023, Monday–Friday, 8:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.
Registration for Session I will close on **Monday, May 15, 2023, at 11:59 p.m.**
- Session II: June 26–July 27, 2023, Monday–Friday, 8:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.
Registration for Session II will close on **Monday, June 5, 2023, at 11:59 p.m.**

Elementary/middle school student programming includes hands-on activities, field trips, STEM, literacy, mathematics, gifted and talented, career exploration, community learning exploration, and recreation camps.

- 5-Week Session: Monday, June 26–Friday, July 28, 2023, 8:00 a.m.–noon
Registration for 5-Week Session will close on **Monday, June 5, 2023, at 11:59 p.m.**

Families may learn more and access online registration links by visiting the MPS [2023 Summer Academy](#) page.