

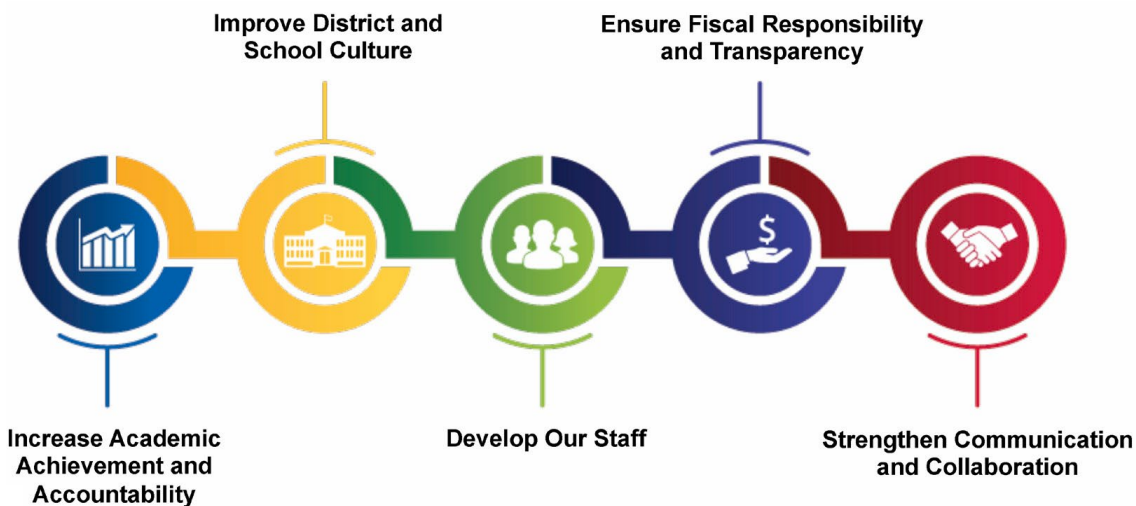


**MILWAUKEE  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**



## Superintendent's Report – August

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, I had the opportunity to visit Vincent High School to discuss the school's agriculture program and meet with some of our partners providing support. In addition, I visited two summer recreation program sites. The first was the Girls of Summer All-Star softball game at Helfaer Field. There were eight MPS schools that participated: Fairview Summer Recreation Enrichment Camp, Fitzsimmons Boys and Girls Club, German Immersion Camp, Lincoln Avenue CLC, Mitchell Safe Place, Neeskara Summer Recreation Enrichment Camp, and Siefert CLC. The second recreation site visit was the *Express Yourself Art Internship Program*.

## EVENTS/PROGRAMS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

### *Day 1 for Early Start Schools*

On August 12, 2019, we celebrated Day One with students and staff on the early start calendar at Golda Meir School. It was wonderful greeting the students and seeing the smiles on their faces as they started the 2019-20 school year! During the first week for early start schools, I also visited Alliance, Groppi, Metcalfe, North Division, Roosevelt MacDowell, Milwaukee High School of the Arts and WCLL.

## ***Day 1 for Traditional Start Schools***

We are looking forward to welcoming our students and staff on the traditional start calendar on Tuesday, September 3, at Milwaukee Parkside School!

## ***WISN Class Act Supply Drive Telethon***

As the 2019-20 school year begins, there have been many generous donors including businesses and organizations that have held school supply drives. We are grateful to all of these individuals and groups who went the extra mile to make certain our students have what they need to begin the school year. This year's efforts included the WISN Class Act Supply Drive Telethon. This fun and successful event included members of the MPS family who were able to staff the phones to take pledges. The funds raised during the phone bank will be used to provide school supplies to students at Andrew Douglas, Keefe Avenue, Benjamin Franklin, and Hayes Bilingual.



## ***Milwaukee Recreation celebrates Columbia Playfield Grand Reopening***

Milwaukee Recreation reopened its renovated [Columbia Playfield](#) on Saturday, August 17, to unveil the playfield's newly constructed basketball courts, play structures, splash pad, and walking path.

In addition to Superintendent Dr. Keith P. Posley, the celebration included MPS Mayor Tom Barrett, district officials, community stakeholders, and children from the surrounding neighborhood.



Last fall, Milwaukee Recreation began work to [remodel and rebuild](#) its recreation playfields by [breaking ground](#) at the first three sites to be transformed: Columbia, Custer, and Southgate. Columbia is the first playfield to reopen.

Many of Milwaukee Recreation's playfields were built in the 1920s and 1930s. The existing outdoor recreation system is comprised of 52 active use playfields encompassing more than 300 acres of programmed space. The majority of these sites serve as neighborhood scale parks with traditional recreational facilities such as ballfields, tot lots, tennis courts, fieldhouses, and general open space.

In 2014, the department retained a consultant to conduct a review of its existing facilities and provide a roadmap for improvements to the playfields. The result was the [Milwaukee Outdoor Recreation Facilities Master Plan](#). The plan rated 65 percent of the facilities as fair to poor, and identified more than \$25 million in needed improvements over a ten-year span. The department then analyzed the neighborhood and population characteristics surrounding each playfield to create a priority list of projects that emphasized racial and economic equity.

## **AWARDS/RECOGNITION**

### ***USA Track & Field Champion***

2011 Bradley Tech High School graduate, Dezerea Bryant, who is a United States national champion! Dezerea, the greatest high school sprinter in state history, won the 200-meter title on July 28 at the USA Track & Field Championships at Drake University. This victory earned her a spot on the U.S. National Team for the World Championships in Doha, Qatar in fall. Congratulations to Dezerea – she makes us MPS Proud!

## ***Wisconsin State Fair Winners***

Vincent High School students in the agriculture program represented Milwaukee Public Schools at the Wisconsin State Fair by presenting their lambs in class four of the Hampshire division in the Market Lamb Show. Tia Belle-Anderson placed eighth, Raynhia Robinson placed tenth, and Kristine Blackwell placed ninth. Vincent High School exposes students to six agriculture-related career pathways, from animal and environmental sciences to culinary arts. They resurrected the old barn, where students tend to livestock, including cows, pigs, sheep, goats, chickens and more. It's not unusual to see students walking their animals on the streets around the school — a sight that prompts drivers to hit the brakes, roll down their windows and snap photos. Outside the classrooms, students take part in the national convention, the World Food Prize Conference, leadership workshops and more.



The popular agriculture program at Vincent continues to grow, and offers benefits beyond spending time with farm animals each day. Students gain an understanding of where food comes from, the challenges in maintaining a food supply, and the day-to-day diligence needed to care for animals and food crops. They also learn patience, problem solving, compassion, and time management.

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