



Superintendent's Report – March 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.



Women's History Month

Women's History Month was first proclaimed by President Jimmy Carter in 1980 (initially as National Women's History Week) after the National Women's History Project lobbied Congress about the importance of ensuring that we educate students about women in American history. March also correlates with International Women's Day, March 8. We want to take a moment to recognize not only our women of history but also the women of today who are making history. We applaud these amazing women!

School Breakfast Week

During National School Breakfast Week, March 7–11, 2022, MPS recognized its very own Department of Nutrition Services. During the school year, MPS food service heroes are responsible for planning, preparing, and distributing breakfast and lunch to about 70,000 students every day. MPS appreciates all our nutrition staff who work to provide nutritious meals to our young learners. Thank you!

School Social Workers Week

School social workers are critical members of the school team in every MPS school. During School Social Workers Week, which took place March 6–12, MPS saluted our social workers who are a key part of many students' lives. Students and families often have numerous needs that may include mental health, social-emotional learning, financial challenges, and unmet physical and emotional needs. School social workers help to identify



concerns and make connections to resources for the safety, health, comfort, and well-being of students and families. Meeting these needs is shown to increase children's academic achievement and help them thrive. We appreciate our school social workers!

Textbook Adoption

After months of planning, organizing, reading, assessing, and discussing, we are excited to have found new social studies textbooks to provide current information to our students. With the board's approval of this adoption, we will begin the next phase of the adoption process, which is to order materials, align curriculum guides, develop supplemental materials, provide professional development, and deliver the resources. We are excited to bring updated social studies information and curriculum to our teachers and students.

Students Take the Initiative



The student ambassadors of Hamilton High School took the initiative to create a dedicated space for student clubs to meet, create, and inspire as they develop and carry out their visions for an improved school community.

As a result of their initiative, students received donations from Office Depot for furniture and supplies. On March 10, a ribbon-cutting ceremony took place to commemorate this space. It is inspiring to see young minds have a vision, pursue it, and ultimately achieve the vision. Congratulations to the Hamilton High School student ambassadors.



Superintendent's Student Advisory Council

Superintendent's Student Advisory Council groups at various high schools had an opportunity to sit down and have lunch with the superintendent this month. During this time, students were able to share thoughts with the superintendent and have open dialogue about their thoughts and visions for the school communities.

MPS Students Are on the Move

We recognize students from Milwaukee High School of the Arts. Twenty vocal students who performed Class A solos in the Wisconsin School Music Association Solo and Ensemble contest qualified for the state-level solo and ensemble competition at UW–Milwaukee on April 30, 2022. Another team of MHSA students took second place at the MPS Financial Investment Challenge Bowl. This has qualified them to compete at the statewide FICB competition scheduled to take place in May 2022.

We congratulate these students on their success and wish them good luck in the next round.

Recruiting

We continue our recruiting efforts to find qualified candidates to fill classified, certified, and trade positions in the district. Job fairs were held this month, with additional fairs scheduled.

As we continue to look for qualified employees, this month we also were able to offer students the opportunity to find employment in the building trades.



Building Trades Career Fair



On March 9, more than three hundred students participated in the Building Trades Career Fair. During this event, two dozen Milwaukee-area employers participated, seeking student employees for part-time and summer employment. Students had the opportunity to learn about different trades, internships, and interviewing skills, and they had a chance to receive immediate feedback from potential and future employers.