



**MILWAUKEE
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**



Superintendent's Report – May 2024

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.



Recognizing Milwaukee Public Schools Staff in May



On April 24, 2024, celebrations for Administrative Professionals Day were held across the district, honoring the vital contributions of assistants in helping to maintain the smooth operation of schools, departments, and offices. We deeply appreciate their dedication and hard work.

On May 1, we celebrated School Principals Day, honoring the invaluable role of our principals. The competent operation of a school relies on the collaborative efforts of every staff member, community member, partner, and parent, all guided by the principal's leadership. We salute our principals for being at the forefront of our schools' daily and yearly successes.





Teacher Appreciation Week, held from May 6 to 10, offered a chance for all stakeholders to express their gratitude to teachers for their dedication and ongoing service. Teachers are essential to students' academic excellence, offering encouragement, support, and a rigorous education.

On May 8, the Department of Specialized Services celebrated National School Nurse Day, honoring school nurses for their crucial role in student success. School nurses address a wide range of needs, including medical, nutritional, mental, and physical health. Their care can significantly impact a student's ability to stay productive in school. We recognize and thank our school nurses for their invaluable contributions.



We are grateful to all our staff for their daily dedication and hard work. Thank you!

MPS Celebrates Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month



MPS students and staff are enthusiastically celebrating Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month throughout May. The commitment to honoring the history of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders in our school communities is evident in the various programs undertaken by both staff and students throughout the district.

May was designated Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month in the United States to commemorate the accomplishments and contributions of Asian/Pacific Americans and to recognize two significant historical events: in May 1843, the first Japanese immigrants arrived in the U.S., and in May 1869, the transcontinental railroad was completed, largely built by skilled Chinese immigrants who worked under perilous conditions. These milestones are integral to the rich history of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders in the United States.

MPS Celebrates Cantos de las Américas

On May 10, nearly 390 students from 20 Milwaukee Public Schools came together to perform in Cantos de las Américas, a vibrant musical tribute to education and a celebration of cultures.

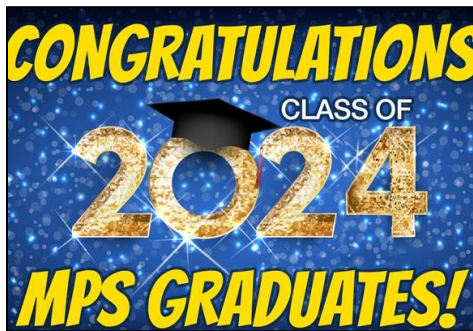
MPS first held this event celebrating Cantos de las Américas in 1990, making this year's performance a continuation of a proud tradition. Cantos de las Américas honors the many cultures represented in Milwaukee Public Schools.

This year's program featured an array of dances performed by students and set to both traditional and contemporary songs from Latin America and India. This blend of musical styles highlighted the rich tapestry of cultural influences present in the community.



Cantos de las Américas is one of the annual events held in Milwaukee Public Schools that celebrates the diverse cultural heritage of our district. It brings together students, families, and educators to appreciate and honor the multicultural fabric that makes our schools unique. Learn more about [Cantos de las Américas](#).

Milwaukee Public Schools Honors Its 2024 High School Graduates



Milwaukee Public Schools recognizes its 2024 graduates for their hard work and determination in reaching this academic milestone. To our valedictorians and salutatorians, we acknowledge the fortitude and perseverance put forth to achieve this highest honor.

Graduates still have access to the College and Career Centers, where they can get help with applying for college admissions, grants, and scholarships and with exploring opportunities such as building trades, military service, and youth apprenticeships. We encourage all students to take full advantage of the College and Career Centers for assistance with FAFSA, résumé writing, and job searching.

Our newest alumni will be celebrated at our annual Senior Send-off on May 31, 2024, at the MPS Central Administration Building.

See the full list of the more than [150 colleges and trades to which our graduates are already accepted](#). See also the full list of the [2024 valedictorians and salutatorians](#).

Milwaukee Public Schools congratulates all the 2024 graduates and wishes them great success in their future endeavors.

MPS Students Show Off Their STEM Genius at This Year's Fair

At the annual MPS STEM Fair, hosted in the spacious Baird Center, students engaged in lively and colorful demonstrations of physics and art. They presented innovative designs that included swinging pendulums and rotating spinners that dripped, splattered, and lashed paint across canvases. This not only created visually striking patterns but also served as a practical lesson in gravity and the impact of different variables on motion and force.

Throughout the rest of the exhibition center, the atmosphere buzzed with enthusiasm as students from all academic levels and every region within the school district showcased their STEM projects. These projects ranged from simple mechanical devices to complex simulations, all detailed through re-creations, vivid illustrations, and informative photos. Participants explained the principles behind their projects to competition judges and visitors who showed keen interest, making it a dynamic exchange of ideas and learning. This interaction demonstrated not only the students' understanding of scientific concepts but also their ability to communicate these ideas effectively to a diverse audience.



See the full list of [this year's STEM project winners](#).

Summer Opportunities

Summer is a time for students to engage in multiple activities ranging from academics to recreation to employment.

Academic opportunities are now available for K5–grade 12 students that include math, science, English language arts, English as a second language, and STEM.

- [High school courses and registration](#)
 - Session I: June 13–July 2, 2024, Monday–Friday, 8:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.
 - Registration for Session 1 closed on May 15, 2024.
 - Session II: June 24–July 25, 2024, Monday–Friday, 8:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.
 - **Registration for Session II will close on May 31, 2024.**
- [K5–grade 8 courses and registration](#)
 - Five-Week Session: Monday, June 24–Friday, July 26, 2024, 8:00 a.m.–noon
 - **Registration for the Five-Week Session will close on May 31, 2024.**
- [Specialty program courses and registration](#)
 - Specialty programming July 8–25, 2024
 - **Registration for specialty programming will close on May 31, 2024.**

More information is available in the [Summer Academy Enrollment Guide](#) and in the [Summer Academy Specialty Courses flyer](#).

College campus opportunities are now available for high school students.

- We offer College 101 courses through our Summer Academy. Some of these courses include the following:
 - Beach flag volleyball – University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee
 - Written communication (English 195) – MATC
 - Aviation science drone workshop – Carroll University

- [UW–Madison PEOPLE Program](#) students will spend up to six weeks on campus (depending on grade level). Seniors who graduate and will attend UW–Madison also spend summer on campus.
- Marquette and UWM have college summer opportunities through various programs such as Upward Bound and College for Kids.
- The Boys & Girls Clubs Graduation Plus program offers programming for students in the summer. Graduation Plus is aimed toward college access.

Recreation opportunities are now available for all ages. Milwaukee Recreation offers Community Learning Centers, camps, camping, swimming, open playgrounds, twilight centers, driver's education, space science, archery, and a host of other opportunities. Many activities are free for students. For a full list of opportunities, view the [Summer Recreation Guide](#).

The Department of Recreation is also hiring.

Employment opportunities are available through Employ Milwaukee and the City of Milwaukee. Employ Milwaukee offers the Earn and Learn program for youth ages 14–24. The program is designed to provide meaningful work or leadership experiences to youth in Milwaukee Public Schools and the community.

The program seeks to provide the following:

- Structured, well-organized work-based learning experiences
- Role models who encourage youth to continue in or return to school
- Career assessment, awareness, and exploration as part of the learning experience
- Opportunities that may lead to unsubsidized employment for youth making the transition from school
- Leadership skills
- Money management

For more information about Earn and Learn, email earn.learn@employmilwaukee.org. MPS students may also reach out to Ms. Ophelia King at 414-475-8128 with questions.

Camp RISE applications have closed for summer 2024, but interested parties may express interest in future camp opportunities via the [Camp RISE Interest Form](#).

The City of Milwaukee is hiring for the summer. We will share more information at the MPS Central Administration Building during our Senior Send-off event on May 31.