

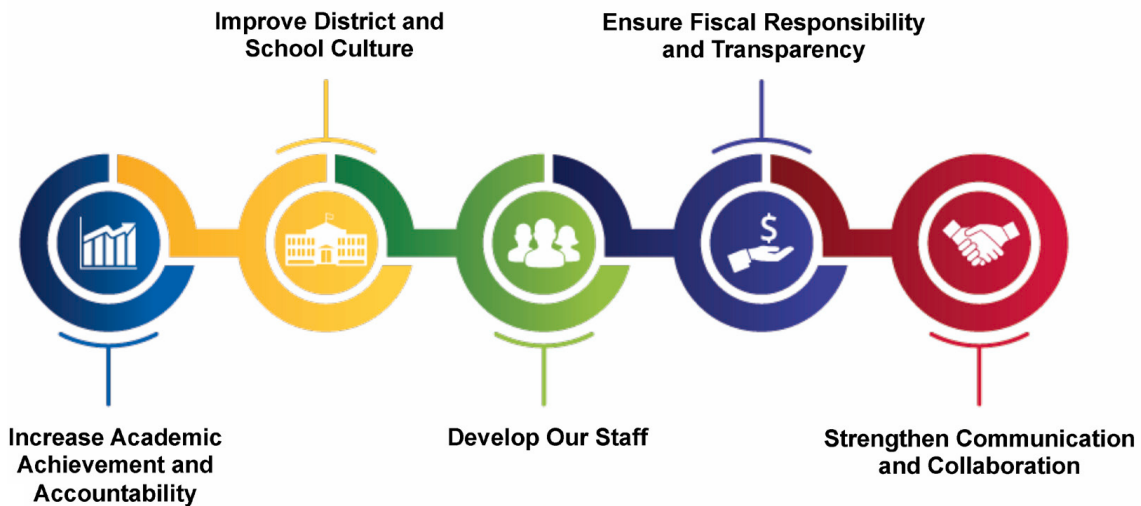


**MILWAUKEE
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**



Superintendent's Report – October 2021

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.



Hispanic Heritage Month

From Cesar Chavez to Rita Moreno to Sonia Sotomayor, our history and culture are woven with contributions of Hispanic Americans. During Hispanic Heritage Month, September 15 to October 15, Milwaukee Public Schools promoted educational activities and shared personal stories of Hispanics in the district.

Many projects and events took place in MPS schools to help students embrace Hispanic culture and immerse in Hispanic experiences. Cooper School led off their activities by exploring books by Hispanic authors and reading about the people, music, art, foods, and traditions of Hispanic culture.

Milwaukee Spanish Immersion School celebrated cultural unity by holding a monarch butterfly release. The event was more than a year in the making as students learned about the monarch life cycle, annual migration of the butterflies to Mexico, impact on the environment, and the symbolism of monarchs in multiple cultures. [Watch a video of joyful students at the event!](#)

On the MPS Alumni Hub, staff and alumni were featured throughout the month by telling their personal stories, including the joys and challenges of growing up Hispanic. They offered inspiring glimpses into their cultures and how customs and traditions shaped their lives and careers. Read their stories on the [MPS Alumni Hub](#).

For more information, family activities, videos, and reading lists, visit <https://www.hispanicheritagemonth.gov/>



During October, Thank a Principal!



If you haven't already done so this month, thank a principal or school leader! Each October, the National Association of Secondary School Principals, the National Association of Elementary School Principals, and the American Federation of School Administrators honor the hard work and dedication of America's principals. National Principals Month is a great opportunity to show appreciation to principals everywhere. Principals are often taken for granted, and few people understand the long hours and hard work that are needed to run a school. Principals are accountable to the school district, school staff, and families—a balancing act that requires patience, compassion, and dedication. In addition, principals

continually drive student achievement while maintaining a positive environment and managing school safety, family engagement, a wide range of student needs, transportation, extracurriculars, and minor emergencies. Very often, the principal is the first person in the door in the morning and the last person to leave at night.

The pandemic has brought new challenges to all of our principals, who are working to support students, families, and staff as they navigate concerns about health and safety along with new issues students are facing in their lives. Yet principals persevere and rise to the challenge of keeping education on pace while students and teachers continually adapt to the evolving pandemic.

MPS is grateful for the dedication and commitment of our school leaders, especially during this ever-changing school year. Thank you!

MPS Students Explored Historically Black Colleges and Universities During October



College and career planning is part of every student's education journey in Milwaukee Public Schools. From October 11-15, 2021, schools highlighted Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). Students in K5 through grade 12 participated in a variety of activities throughout MPS HBCU week.

Activities and opportunities to learn more about HBCUs included hearing HBCU alumni talk about their college experiences, scholarships available, and African-American Greek Letter organizations. A highlight and culminating event of the week was the United Negro College Fund (UNCF) Empower Me Tour. Students in

attendance were able to learn about colleges, financial aid, scholarships and more!

Fire Safety is Highlighted at Townsend Street School

Students at Townsend Street School had an exciting morning on October 4 thanks to a visit from the Milwaukee Fire Department. Fire fighters stopped by so children could learn about fire safety and tour the mobile Survive Alive House. Students heard about this year's theme, Learn the Sounds of Fire Safety, which helps children remember that a chirping sound means to change the battery in a smoke alarm, while a loud beeping means to get out of the house.

Having a safety plan and knowing how to escape a burning house are critical steps to survive a fire. MPS students were part of the city's Fire Prevention Week, a national event that runs October 3 to 9 this year. Activities are promoted to make homes safer and help families prepare for emergencies.

At Townsend Street School, students had the chance to hear smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors, engage with fire fighters, and ask questions. The Milwaukee Fire Department also held a poster contest, with student artwork being displayed on billboards this month. Congratulations to Dyani, a 5th-grader at Milwaukee Spanish Immersion School, the poster contest grand prize winner!



**Congratulations To
Dyani! 5th grader at
Milwaukee Spanish
Immersion School**



**2021 Fire Prevention
Week Grand
Prize Winner!**

Watch a video of the event at <https://www.tmj4.com/news/local-news/milwaukee-fire-department-kicks-off-fire-prevention-week-at-townsend-street-school>.

More information about fire safety for children and families is available on the [Survive Alive Milwaukee](#) website.

[Download Family Safety Tips](#)

[Download a Family Action Plan in English and Spanish](#)

Next Steps for MPS Staff Vaccine Mandate are Outlined



In September, the Milwaukee Board of School Directors approved a COVID-19 vaccination requirement for all staff. MPS has now outlined procedures to submit proof of vaccination and accommodation requests.

Employees should access Employee Self-Service by navigating to the MPS homepage at mpsmke.com, clicking “Staff” on the blue bar at the top of the page, then selecting “Self Service.” Step-by-step instructions to submit proof of vaccination or request an accommodation, along with Frequently Asked Questions, can be found on the [vaccination information webpage](#).

When requesting a medical/disability or religious accommodation, an employee must complete and submit the [medical/disability accommodation request form](#) or the [religious accommodation request form](#) through Employee Self-Service. Exempt individuals will be required to take part in COVID-19 testing twice per week. New employees will be required to submit proof of full vaccination upon hire or be approved for a religious or medical accommodation.

Proof of COVID-19 vaccination must be provided and accommodation requests must be approved by November 1, 2021. Any questions regarding the proof of vaccination process can be sent to COVIDVax@milwaukee.k12.wi.us. Questions regarding the accommodation process can be sent to COVIDAccomm@milwaukee.k12.wi.us.

Employees are encouraged to submit proof of vaccination or accommodation requests as soon as possible to ensure processing by November 1, 2021. For more information, visit the Staff COVID-19 Vaccine Mandate FAQ on the Employee Relations web page on mConnect at <https://mpsmke.com/staffvax>.

We appreciate all our employees doing their part to ensure our buildings are safe environments for students and staff!

MPS Offers \$100 Incentive for Students who Vaccinate Against COVID-19

To reduce the spread of COVID-19 and promote the health and safety of MPS students, staff, and families, Milwaukee Public schools is offering a \$100 incentive for each student who becomes fully vaccinated against COVID-19 by November 1, 2021. The district is providing information about eligibility, receiving the vaccine, and applying for the incentive on the [Student COVID-19 Vaccine Incentive webpage](#).

The incentive will be a \$100 rewards card mailed to each student at the address listed in Infinite Campus/Parent Portal. Proof of vaccination will be determined by information listed in the [Wisconsin Immunization Registry \(WIR\)](#).

Who is eligible to receive the \$100 vaccine incentive?

To be eligible, students must:

- Be 12 years of age or older
- Be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 by November 1, 2021
- Complete the online application by November 15, 2021
- Attend any MPS school, including any MPS charter school or partnership school
- ***Note that children ages 12 to 17 are ONLY eligible for the Pfizer vaccine, which requires two doses at least 21 days apart.***

How do families apply for the incentive?

To apply for the student incentive, a family member can access the online application at mpsmke.com/studentvax. You will need your student's MPS login information, which is the Student ID (7-digit number) and password. More information can be found in the application. ***The application is due by 11:59 P.M. on November 15, 2021.*** The application can be filled out by smartphone.

What does the application include?

- Verify that the student's contact information is correct. If contact information is not correct, please complete the application, then contact your child's school to update your information before November 15.
- Give consent to MPS to verify your child's COVID-19 vaccination status through the Wisconsin Immunization Registry (WIR).
- Give consent to MPS to share your contact information with a third-party partner organization to issue the incentive.

Middle and High School Enrollment is Open Through Oct. 31, 2021

With more than 30 high school options and a number of middle school choices in the district, MPS has an ideal learning situation for every student's needs and future career goals. Options abound including technology, engineering, arts, music, college prep, skilled trades, manufacturing, culinary arts, and more. Students in grades 5 and 8 should explore schools now and make their choices for this important transition. To find a high school or middle school that best fits your needs, visit [How to Select a School](#) on the district website and select by location or program. To find open houses for middle and high schools, visit the [Virtual Early Admissions](#) page. Early enrollment is your best opportunity for a chance at your first-choice school—some schools fill up quickly!

For enrollment, visit the [How to Apply for Early Admissions](#) page. Current MPS students will apply through the online Infinite Campus Parent Portal. Families new to MPS will follow an admission process that includes a student essay, 7th grade report card, 7th grade attendance record, and standardized test scores.

For more information, please call the Department of Student Services at 414-475-8159.

We Energies is Seeking MPS Juniors for Youth Apprentices and Interns

High school juniors can start training for a career now! We Energies is looking for students to train as a line mechanic or gas technician intern, or as a design engineer youth apprentice. Get paid while still in high school! Applications are open now.

Line Mechanic Intern: Maintain power lines and climb electrical poles. Learn about electric distribution, basic electric theory, safety, and materials and operations.

Gas Technician Intern: Maintain equipment, repair leaks, and troubleshoot problems with natural gas lines. Understand how natural gas is used in homes and businesses.

How to Apply: Line Mechanic and Gas Technician Interns

High school juniors: Complete the We Energies internship application at <https://smr.to/p60720>. Complete your application SOON to be invited to We Energies Demo Day on October 20 (apply by Oct. 15) or November 3, 2021 (apply by Oct. 29). See line mechanics and gas technicians in action and learn more. Invitations will be sent to students who apply by these deadlines.

Design Engineer Youth Apprenticeship: Work 900 paid hours and learn electrical planning, natural gas design, and engineering concepts. Design construction prints and see them implemented on job sites. Earn up to 12 college credits transferable to MATC.

How to Apply: Design Engineer Youth Apprentice

High school juniors can apply by completing the following steps. **The first two steps must be completed** to be considered.

- Complete the YA application at mpsmke.com/yaapp
- Upload your resume <https://tinyurl.com/5jty3tfz>
- Attend an Open House at We Energies on November 8. Complete your application by November 3 to receive an invitation.

The final deadline to apply for both programs is November 12, 2021.

For more information, [download a flyer](#) or contact Tamera Coleman at colemat@milwaukee.k12.wi.us or Emily Brown at brownek@milwaukee.k12.wi.us.

Update on Transportation Services

As part of this month's report, the Administration will provide an update at the October 28, 2021 meeting of the Milwaukee Board of School Directors on transportation services for the 2021-2022 school year.