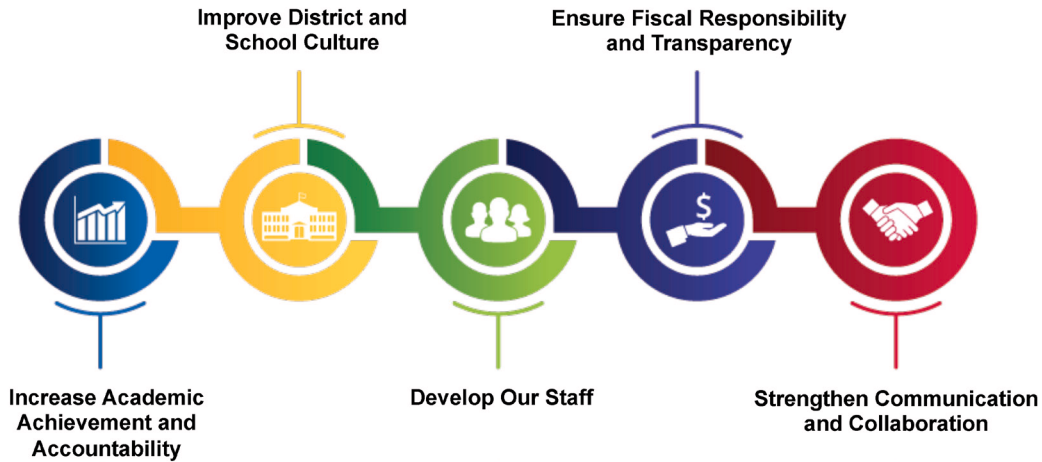




Superintendent's Report – October

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:



Milwaukee Recreation Breaks Ground for Upcoming Playfield Renovations

Milwaukee Recreation continued its citywide playfield renovation project by breaking ground at the **Columbia Playfield** in front of dozens of community members, MPS representatives, recreation staffers, and local children who will reap the benefits of the revamped park.

While Milwaukee Recreation held the ground-breaking at Columbia Playfield, the event marked the kickoff for construction at two other playfields — **Custer** and **Southgate** — as well. All three playfields will be ready for play by next summer; a fourth park, **Burnham Playfield**, will be ready by the summer of 2020.

In 2014, Milwaukee Recreation retained a consultant to conduct a review of the existing facilities and provide a roadmap for improvements to the playfields spanning a 10-year timeframe. 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 10-year span. However, in lieu of merely assessing the condition of each site, Milwaukee Recreation also analyzed the neighborhood and population characteristics surrounding each playfield and developed a priority list of projects that emphasized racial and economic equity.

While each project will be designed to meet the needs and interests of the surrounding community, most of the work will include asphalt removal, installation of shade trees, walking areas, improved playground equipment, and



basketball courts. Additional lighting, benches, shade structures, and trash receptacles will also be added to the sites, and several locations will include eco-friendly splash pads.

SCHOOL VISITS

Some of my school visits included **Webster Secondary School, Browning School, Rufus King International High School, South Division,** and **Milwaukee College Prep.** I attended the Youth Voter Registration Rally at Obama School of Career and Technical Education — Supervisor Sequanna Taylor and State Representative Elect Kalan Haywood II also visited to encourage youth to register to vote.

EVENTS/PROGRAMS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

MPS Kicks Off FAFSA Campaign



Financial aid, including free money, is available for college, and Milwaukee Public Schools is committed to helping students discover funds that are available to them. The first step in accessing financial aid is the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). On October 1, to mark the opening of FAFSA applications for the 2019–20 school year, MPS hosted a kickoff event at **MacDowell Montessori School** to spread the word about FAFSA, encourage students to apply, and offer help with applications.

At the kickoff, members of the community learned about this important resource that can help more students go to college and minimize their student loan debt. The FAFSA Kickoff is part of a series of efforts by Milwaukee Public Schools to increase the number of students who complete the FAFSA and thereby qualify for financial aid.

Filling out the FAFSA gives every applicant a summary of the federal aid they qualify for, and the FAFSA is required for some scholarship applications. Many MPS students discover money that is available to them — but the only way to find out is to fill out the application.

MPS offers extensive help to students to fill out the FAFSA, college applications, scholarship applications, and more. All twenty MPS traditional high schools have an on-site College & Career Center staffed by advisors who can assist with applications and answer questions. MPS students can visit any College & Career Center to get the help they need.



Youth Apprenticeship Day in Wisconsin

Opening doors to in-demand careers was the focus of an event at Harley-Davidson University. **Harley-Davidson** executives, representatives from **Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS)** and **Milwaukee Area Technical College (MATC)**, and leadership from the **Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD)** were joined by Governor Scott Walker to mark September 28, 2018, as **Youth Apprenticeship Day in Wisconsin.**





MPS students who work at Harley-Davidson as Youth Apprentices earn college credits through MATC. Since the 2010–11 school year, there has been a 166 percent increase in student participation and a 171 percent increase in business participation in youth apprenticeships. Since 2012, funding has more than doubled, from \$1.6 million to \$3.9 million.

MPS engages in dedicated college and career efforts to help students find their path from high school to technical school, college, military service, or career. District schools offer career and technical education programs in agriculture, construction, culinary arts, finance, health care, hospitality and tourism, welding, and more. To learn more about the diverse options available in MPS, visit mps.mke.com/ya.



Mentor Lunches Inspire Black and Latino Youth

The Black & Latino Male Achievement (BLMA) department in Milwaukee Public Schools kicked off its monthly mentoring program at the Fiserv Forum. Nearly 200 young men from five MPS high schools were in attendance along with dozens of volunteer mentors from around the community.

Black and Latino male students in MPS will have opportunities to enjoy lunch with Black and Latino male mentors throughout the school year to allow them to converse about topics and areas to help them succeed academically, socially and emotionally. Begun in Fall 2017, the First Thursday Mentor Luncheon program started with two sites and 60 students; this year, it will grow to five sites and nearly 200 students.

Conversations with young men have been rich and diverse, including topics such as:

- Perspectives on authority and power, and appropriate and inappropriate use of both,
- Discussions on the importance of self-esteem and self-care for manhood, and,
- Employment and careers, and understanding how public-school education is a starting point to an ongoing road to success.



Art Exhibition Features Milwaukee Students

October 3 marked the opening of a new exhibit at **Kenilworth Gallery Square East** featuring works by Milwaukee and New York youth. Entitled *See Me Because*, the exhibition is a collaboration by the **Milwaukee Public Schools Department of Black and Latino Male Achievement, Art Start**, and **Milwaukee Turnaround Arts**. The collection was on display at the Kenilworth Gallery through October 14, 2018. From December 6 to 9, the exhibit will appear at the Milwaukee Art Museum.

Since February 2018, MPS students have participated in workshops, in-depth dialogue, interviews, and photoshoots, allowing them to explore their own personal identity and envision their lives beyond circumstance and stereotype. With support from world-class photographers, stylists, and oral historians, those visions come to life through this multimedia gallery exhibition and public campaign, #SeeMeBecause. The project offers a platform for self-determination, representation, and liberation.



class photographers, stylists, and oral historians, those visions come to life through this multimedia gallery exhibition and public campaign, #SeeMeBecause. The project offers a platform for self-determination, representation, and liberation.

The Art Start Portrait Project challenges the belief that the future will simply be a continuation of the past, or that stereotypes, statistics, and circumstance determine our youths' existence. Project organizers expressed the belief that each individual has an autonomous and creative spirit that is inherently healing and liberating. With the freedom to design and reimagine one's self, the courage to believe, and access to the resources to create, youth can profoundly transform how they identify and how they interact with their own lives, futures, and each other.

Bucks' Mascot Encourages Students to Read More

Students at **River Trail School** had a visit from **Milwaukee Bucks** mascot Bango with an important message about reading more and improving reading skills. Bango showed off basketball moves and tricks and competed with students in a 3-point shootout, then awarded prizes to the winners. The visit was part of River Trail's 2018–19 reading initiative, "Shoot for Success in Reading."



After a game of "Bango Says" with students (the mascot's own version of "Simon Says"), school staff revealed exciting prizes for students for reading books and for improving reading scores on assessments. Students were excited for the chance to play with Bango and are pumped up to read more this school year.

Many thanks to the Milwaukee Bucks, Bango, Milwaukee Bucks staff, and the staff of River Trail School for working to help students achieve. Improving reading is part of the district's focus on reading, writing, and math, and aligns with the Five Priorities for Success.



AWARDS/RECOGNITION



MPS Foundation Honors Outstanding Alumni

More than 300 people gathered to recognize outstanding alumni from Milwaukee Public Schools. Nine men and women plus a corporate partner were honored for their exemplary careers, community work, and support of Milwaukee Public Schools.

Guests enjoyed a delicious dinner at the **Italian Community Center** and were treated to entertainment by R&B/jazz duo **B-Free & Quinten Farr**, as well as the Rufus King High School Drumline. Following dessert, a set from **DJ Tarik Moody** of 88Nine Radio Milwaukee helped keep the celebration going.

The evening, which included a live auction, raised approximately \$120,000 for students in Milwaukee Public Schools.



2018 HONOREES
YOUNG ALUMNI AWARD Kevin Newell President & CEO, Royal Capital Group Custer High School Alumnus
EMERGING LEADER AWARD Tonya Mantilla Vice President, University Advancement, Cardinal Stritch University Rufus King High School Alumna
SERVICE AWARD John Kersey Executive Vice President, Zilber LTD John Marshall High School Alumnus
CORPORATE PARTNER AWARD Herb Kohl Philanthropies
“START, STAY, SUCCEED” CHAMPION AWARD Dr. Jennifer Smith MPS Regional Superintendent Rufus King High School Alumna
OUTSTANDING ALUMNUS Jeff Bowman President & CEO, Bay Bank Milwaukee Tech High School Alumnus
LEGACY AWARD Ann Terrell Retired Milwaukee Public Schools Executive (MPS Foundation Executive Director and Early Childhood Education) Riverside University High School Alumna
HONORARY ALUMNI AWARD Joan Robertson, Philanthropist
LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD Al Jarreau Lincoln High School Alumnus / Vel Phillips North Division High School Alumna

INCREASING OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENT VOICE

A shared goal of the Milwaukee Board of School Directors and the Administration is providing increased opportunities for student voice throughout the district and at monthly Board meetings. As part of this month’s report, I would like to recognize members of the 2018–19 Superintendent’s Student Advisory (SSAC). This month, they held their first meeting of the school year and will be attending and participating in future committee and Board meetings.

