

#### Superintendent's Report - May 2020

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*.



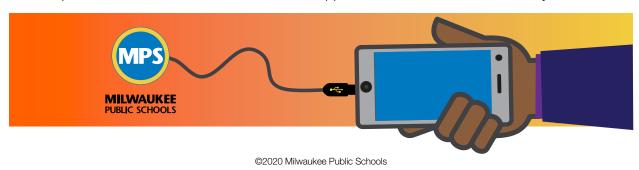
There have been many district impacts resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. The district is continuing its extensive planning and implementation efforts to support members of the MPS family during this time to include the following examples:

- Closeout of the 2019–2020 school year as well as summer and fall reopening.
- Additional MPS Stop, Grab, and Go sites to distribute healthy meals and instructional materials.
- Virtual format for Summer Academy 2020.
- Continued Chromebook distribution.
- Connecting school staff with students.
- Helplines and district updates to keep families informed and provide assistance.

District leadership will continue these and more efforts to support all members of the MPS family.







### **Helplines and District Updates Keep Families Informed**

MPS is continually seeking ways to support our students and families during school closures. Get access to the latest information and assistance through our phone lines, website, schools, app, and other sources.

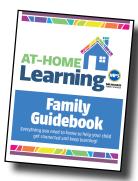
MPS Central Services phone lines are open for questions — call (414) 475-8393. MPS has also created a special hotline — (414) 475-8900 — to provide assistance and guidance to families. Both lines are open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.



Families of students receiving Specialized Services Support can access assistance regarding their child's education. Call (414) 438-3648 and leave a message stating the student's name and birth date along with your name and contact information. You will be contacted within 24 hours of your call.

## **Chromebook Support Helps Students Access Online Learning**

Distribution of Chromebooks to MPS families is underway, with many students already receiving technology to continue learning at home. The district is offering support to families to help students use their Chromebooks and access the Internet, including a new *Family Guidebook*! This guidebook gathers important information in one convenient place including how to get Internet service, connect to WiFi, locate online learning, and access district support.





Families who have not yet received a Chromebook should contact their child's principal. An appointment will be set for a pick-up time so Chromebooks can be checked, sanitized, and ready for students.

Online learning will require an Internet provider so devices can connect to educational websites. Families are advised to contact their phone or television provider to ask about free or low-cost offers for students. MPS has developed a list of current offers on our **Internet Resources for Families** page.

Accessing education online is easy! Visit the MPS Online Learning Resources page to find recommended websites by grade level, family resources, virtual field trips, social emotional support, and more. Students can safely log in once through Clever to access many educational websites. Read detailed Clever instructions or watch our Clever video for assistance logging in.

**Troubleshooting:** If your device does not work properly, do not attempt to repair the device. Email the MPS Technology Support Center at tsc@ milwaukee.k12.wi.us immediately. Please include a phone number, school name, student name and ID number, and description of the problem in the email so we can contact you.

For questions about your child's education or school, contact your school principal. For district questions, families have two options:

- 1 MPS Central Services phone line call (414) 475-8393.
- MPS special hotline to assist families call (414) 475-8900.

Both lines are open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.



### **MPS Summer Academy June Session Goes Online**

Summer provides a critical learning window for many MPS students. To support credit recovery and other learning needs, the June Session of Summer Academy will take place through an online platform this year. Students in schools on the early start calendar (last day of class is May 21) are eligible to enroll in June Session.

June Session will be held this summer from June 1 to 26. High school students, current 8th-graders, and students in Extended School Year can attend. High school students can earn up to one credit through credit recovery (retaking a course to earn credit) or one-half credit through credit acceleration (taking a course for credit the first time).



June Academy

June 1-26, 2020

**July Academy** 

July 6-31, 2020

The June session will be held Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

The July Session will be held July 6 to 31. Details will be posted in the coming weeks.

## How will online learning work?

- Students will need a computer or Chromebook and Internet access daily.
- Students move through designated coursework at their own pace at home.
- Students will work with licensed teachers.
- Summer Academy is open to all city of Milwaukee residents who need to recover or obtain credits.

Registration is now open! Register online at **June Academy**. Paper forms will be available starting the week of May 11 at **MPS Stop, Grab, and Go** sites. Paper forms can be scanned and emailed to **elo@milwaukee.k12.wi.us** or can be dropped at **MPS Stop, Grab, and Go** sites. Families may also mail their forms to MPS Room 150, 5225 W. Vliet St., Milwaukee, WI 53208.

Students not currently enrolled in MPS are eligible! Families must submit their registration and have their school counselor email a current copy of their transcript and a letter of course requests to <a href="mailto:elo@milwaukee.k12.wi.us">elo@milwaukee.k12.wi.us</a>. Students who are not city of Milwaukee residents must submit tuition payment at the time of registration. Course selections will be determined by a school counselor.

To learn more, visit the **Summer Academy page** of the MPS website, contact your child's school counselor, or email **elo@milwaukee.k12.wi.us**.

#### Reagan and North Division Recognized for Excellence in NAF Program

Congratulations to Ronald Wilson Reagan College Preparatory High School for earning Distinguished Level and to North Division High School for earning Model Level from the NAF Education Network. Both schools submitted extensive program records and hosted site visits with NAF leadership and experts to earn these distinctions. The NAF program promotes college and career readiness and success for students.



Nationwide, only 200 schools earned Model Level through NAF, and only 135 reached Distinguished Level. This is the first year that Milwaukee Public Schools has had a high school reach Distinguished Level.

At Reagan, more than 100 students participated in NAF Academy of Health Science, with 33 taking part in internships. Twelve students earned their Certified Nursing Assistant credential as part of this program. North Division was honored for its NAF Academy of Information Technology, and also offers a NAF Academy of Health Science. More than 100 students took part this year, with 24 participating in internships. As a culminating project, North Division NAF Academy of IT students designed websites for local businesses in the 53206 ZIP code, providing a needed service to help owners promote, market, and succeed in their businesses.

NAF provides strategic structure, tools, and resources to support MPS high school students in pursuit of chosen career fields. Community partners are essential elements in NAF programming, providing mentors and internships. For the 2020–21 school year, MPS will have NAF academies in seven schools:

- Audubon Technology and Communication High School
- Bay View High School
- James Madison Academic Campus
- North Division High School
- Ronald Wilson Reagan College Preparatory High School
- South Division High School
- Washington High School of Information Technology

NAF programs focus on five career themes: finance, hospitality and tourism, information technology, engineering, and health sciences. Students who are interested in being part of a NAF track should contact their school counselor.



NAF works with high-need communities to transform the high school experience through an educational design that includes industry-specific curricula, work-based learning experiences, and relationships with business professionals, culminating in a paid internship. NAF academies fit within and enhance school systems. During the 2019–20 school year, more than 112,000 students attended 620 NAF academies across the country.

## **Margaret Roushar of Parkview Selected to Receive Twilight Award**

During Teacher Appreciation Week, Chance the Rapper recognized teachers through The Twilight Awards, a special program to thank teachers for all they do. Through three live broadcasts on Instagram, Chance the Rapper surprised teachers with supplies, donations, and more on behalf of Box Tops for Education. Teachers were selected by showing



dedication, originality, and creativity in helping their students thrive. MPS is proud to announce that one of its dedicated teachers has been selected by Chance the Rapper.

Margaret Roushar is a 1st-grade teacher at Parkview School. She has taught in MPS for 11 years and was recently **featured on TMJ4** for her efforts in sending care packages to her students during school closures. Margaret is using her government stimulus money to purchase small games and learning tools to support her students and let them know she cares about them.







A longtime proponent of education, Chance the Rapper founded SocialWorks in 2016 to empower youth through arts, education and civic engagement. Through SocialWorks, he has given millions of dollars to Chicago public schools and continues to inspire creativity, build dreams and advocate for youth success in all its forms.

Congratulations, Margaret Roushar and Parkview School! You make us #MPSProud!

# **JJ Watt Foundation Donates to Milwaukee Recreation Youth Sports Teams**

The Justin J. Watt Foundation donated new uniforms and equipment to 35 Milwaukee Recreation middle school sports teams during the 2019–20 school year. The uniforms and equipment totaled \$85,120.60 and will serve student-athletes in Milwaukee Recreation's basketball, cheer, soccer, softball, track and field, and volleyball leagues.

The donations were received and distributed to the teams prior to the COVID-19 school closures.



Milwaukee Recreation, a department of Milwaukee Public Schools, provides youth sports opportunities to thousands of middle and elementary school student-athletes across dozens of leagues each year.



The **JJ Watt Foundation** has been a strong supporter of youth sports. This donation is a wonderful boost for MPS student-athletes and will further the district's mission to promote healthy lifestyles, personal development, and fun through sports and recreation. The JJ Watt Foundation has donated uniforms and equipment worth nearly \$6 million to hundreds of schools around the nation since 2011.

Watt, a five-time All-Pro defensive end for the Houston Texans, is a native of Pewaukee. The three-time NFL Defensive Player of the Year also played 26 games at the University of Wisconsin over two seasons.

## **MPS Celebrated Teacher Appreciation Week and School Nurses Day**

The district is grateful for our dedicated teachers and school nurses. Thank you for all that our staff does for students and to support instruction and learning.





