



MILWAUKEE PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Superintendent's Report – December

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.



SCHOOL VISITS

School visits remain a priority and serve as an excellent mechanism for gathering feedback to support district improvement efforts. This month, some of the schools I visited include **Sherman Multicultural Arts School, Maryland, Emerson, Forest Home Avenue, Victory K8 and Milwaukee Italian Immersion, North Division, Milwaukee College Prep, Maryland Avenue Montessori, Metcalfe and Highland Community** schools. I conducted a student focus group at Riverside High School.



EVENTS/PROGRAMS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

University of Wisconsin – Madison, MPS celebrate expansion of program that prepares students for college and careers

University of Wisconsin-Madison

Chancellor Rebecca Blank and MPS Superintendent Keith Posley announced the expansion of services provided by the long-running and highly-successful **PEOPLE (Precollege Enrichment Opportunity Program for Learning Excellence)** Program for students in MPS. The PEOPLE program will now concentrate its efforts in Milwaukee and Madison and will expand services to students in Milwaukee to provide year-round support.



WISCONSIN
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

The PEOPLE Program prepares students to be academically and socially equipped to apply, be successfully admitted, and enroll at UW-Madison. PEOPLE students who enroll at the University of Wisconsin-Madison may be eligible for a four-year tuition scholarship.

Key highlights of the expansion include:

- ▶ Expanding the number of PEOPLE participants in Milwaukee Public Schools from 160 to 400 8th through 12th grade students on an annual basis
- ▶ Establishing eight Academic Centers for Enrichment in MPS high schools where students can receive tutoring support, ACT preparation guidance, and social skill building efforts
- ▶ Meetings twice a year with pre-college advisors to set goals and reflect on their progress

Students will continue to participate in residential summer academic programs at UW-Madison focused on math, study skills and writing skills development; ACT preparation; and workshops in the biological and physical sciences, engineering, biomedical research and health sciences.

Wisconsin Vision provides free glasses at two MPS schools

When students fall behind in learning, sometimes the solution is as simple as a pair of glasses. To give every student a chance to learn, **Wisconsin Vision** has partnered with Milwaukee Public Schools and the Milwaukee Teachers' Education Association to provide eye exams and glasses for students at **Clarke Street School** and **Clement J. Zablocki School**.

Students quickly discovered that the process was painless and even fun as they read the eye chart and optometrists fine-tuned their prescriptions. The real fun came when children looked over hundreds of frames and tried on glasses to pick the perfect pair.



WisconsinVision

Golda Meir opens new high-tech makerspace

Students showed off their expertise to visitors from Milwaukee Public Schools and **Eaton Corporation** during a grand opening of **Golda Meir School's** new makerspace on November 20. Thanks to Eaton's initiative, hard work, and a \$30,000 donation, Golda Meir students are operating high tech robots and equipment that will prepare them for the engineering and technology jobs of the coming decades.

Six years ago, Eaton reached out to Golda Meir administrators to learn how to support the school's engineering and STEM program. Through a variety of activities including an annual STEM Kickoff, field trips, donations, and volunteer work, Eaton has been instrumental in helping the school grow a strong STEM program in its upper campus, which serves middle and high school students. Eaton's commitment was celebrated with a ribbon cutting ceremony at the makerspace with the Eaton and MPS teams in attendance.

Students have access to several technology stations that include laser engraving, Lego robotics, a digital sewing machine, imaging technology, 3-D printing, programmable robotic spheres, and more. In addition to classroom work, the makerspace is open after school and draws dozens of students daily.



Powering Business Worldwide

New winter coats go to 7,000 MPS students

In between fighting fires and saving lives, the local heroes of the **Milwaukee Fire Department (MFD)** somehow found time to raise funds, go shopping, organize, and deliver

7,000 new winter jackets to students in Milwaukee Public Schools. An assembly was held at **Nathaniel Hawthorne School** to distribute jackets as well as thank and recognize members of the MFD. Students were excited to mingle with firefighters and Sparky, the MFD mascot.



After taking part in a safety presentation by the firefighters, students had the chance to try on and select their new coats. Students were all smiles as they headed back to class zipped into their new winter gear.

Being in school every day is critical for students to achieve success, but in some parts of the city, attendance dips along with the temperatures. Most MPS students walk to school or ride a bus, requiring them to be outside for periods of time. Warm winter gear ensures that students are safe in the cold weather and can come to school every day.

Since the MFD's winter coat program began, students at 71 schools have received new jackets. This year, a total of 21 schools received new winter outerwear for students.

Leadership and Brotherhood Summit for young men of color

The Milwaukee Public Schools **Department of Black and Latino Male Achievement (BLMA)** is actively engaged in a community-wide effort to support the leadership development, enhance the academic success, and affirm the cultural identity and dignity of Black, Latino, and First Nations male youth. As part of BLMA's second year of programming, a summit was hosted at Marquette University for 250 MPS youth. Students toured the campus, took part in panels and workshops, and participated in activities for personal growth.



Attendees had time to reflect on their personal goals and learn how to map their path to success and also heard from expert speakers about ways that personal growth has the potential to impact the entire community. Students were presented with examples of youth leadership and encouraged to support a cause that impacts themselves, their families, or their neighborhoods.

Sessions available to students offered topics such as financial security, college admissions, youth activism, criminal justice reform, masculinity, servant leadership, civic pride, and being an individual of positive influence. Topics were selected based on the 2018–19 theme, Brothers United for Change.

AWARDS/RECOGNITION

Tina Gleason of Golda Meir receives Excellence in Teaching Award

Milwaukee Public Schools **Golda Meir** teacher **Tina Gleason** has been recognized with the 2018 Excellence in Teaching Economics and Personal Finance Award by the **Wisconsin Department of Financial Institutions and EconomicsWisconsin**. Gleason teaches Project Lead The Way and integrated science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) classes at the sixth, seventh, and eighth grade levels.



For nearly 20 years, Gleason has advised EconomicsWisconsin stock market competition teams, with her students winning the statewide Stock Market Game InvestWrite essay competitions for the past three years in a row. This year, Daisy Kiekhofer, one of Gleason's students, went on to receive second place in the national contest.



Gleason's award was presented during the Get Your Students Pumped Up on Personal Finance & Economics conference held at Lambeau Field in Green Bay.



Antonio Bellamy of Bradley Tech is SEEK Careers/Staffing employee of the month

Milwaukee Public Schools students give us many reasons to be proud, and we are excited to share that **Antonio Bellamy**, a senior at **Lynde and Harry Bradley Technology and Trade School**, has been selected as employee of the month by SEEK Careers/Staffing. Bellamy is in the MPS Youth Apprenticeship program and serves at HellermannTyton, which manufactures a wide range of parts, cables, and tools for industrial applications.

Bellamy is assigned to the tool room and is currently enhancing his Electrical Discharging Machining (EDM) skills. This is his second school year assigned to HellermannTyton.

Bellamy was selected for his hard work, rapid progression of his skills, and the positive attitude he shows in his youth apprenticeship program. He was selected as the employee of the month from

among more than 2,500 employees in Wisconsin and Minnesota.

Each year, MPS places students in youth apprenticeships at dozens of local businesses. To learn more, visit the MPS Youth Apprenticeships page at <http://mps.milwaukee.k12.wi.us/en/Programs/Career-Technical-Education/Youth-Apprenticeship.htm>.

Hamilton High School retires jersey of alumnus and pro player Kevon Looney

Kevon Looney was in good company as he entered the gym at **Alexander Hamilton High School** to see his high school basketball jersey retired. Accompanying Looney were not just a few friends and teammates, but the entire team of **Golden State Warriors**, including Stephen Curry and Kevin Durant, coaches, and even some front office staff. All of them cheered on Looney as he autographed jersey number 5 to be put on permanent display.

Looney is a 2014 graduate of Hamilton and was a star player in his high school days. While at Hamilton, Looney was named Mr. Basketball by the Wisconsin Basketball Coaches Association and won Gatorade Player of the Year in 2014. His senior year, he averaged 27.9 points, 12.7 rebounds, 8 blocks and 7 assists per game. Looney was drafted by the Golden State Warriors in 2015. He played college basketball for UCLA for one year before making the leap to the NBA.

Known for his natural talent, Looney spent time with the Hamilton basketball teams, cheerleaders, and students, sharing stories about his career journey. Looney has also gained a reputation for charitable causes and for giving back to others.



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 the monthly Board meetings. With that goal in mind, I have continued my listening sessions with students. Through these sessions, I learn a lot about what is important to students, including what makes them most proud about MPS and what their ideas are for increasing student voice in district decision making.



This month I had an opportunity to meet with 12 students at Riverside University High School. Students revealed their pride in MPS for the diversity of the student body, course offerings, and access to arts and athletics programs. They also spoke positively about the many opportunities in MPS such as college and career support. In addition, youth in the focus group praised MPS teachers for ensuring that students have what they need to succeed. The conversation explored several areas of concern including security procedures, cell phone use, block scheduling, and school spirit. The students also shared their opinions about school uniforms, made suggestions for facility improvements, and requested more passing time between classes.

