

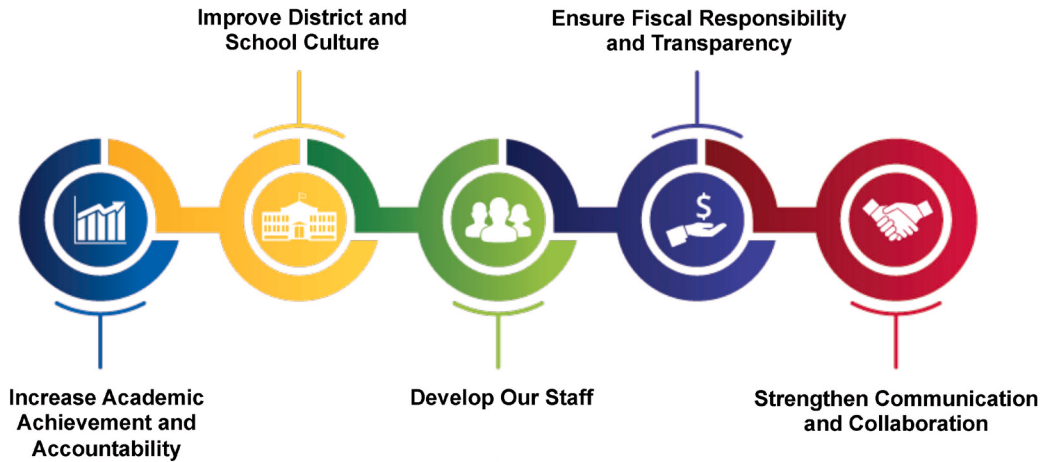


MILWAUKEE PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Superintendent's Report – January

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 **Rufus King International Baccalaureate High School, Milwaukee Marshall High School, and North Division High School.**

EVENTS/PROGRAMS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

MPS Language Summit attracts families

Nearly 300 people enjoyed lunch and cultural performances at **Milwaukee School of Languages** while also having the chance to learn about exciting programs in MPS schools. Students in the MPS Culinary Arts programs served a delicious foods representing a variety of cultures, while families learned about district strategies:

- ▶ Bilingual and ESL Programs
- ▶ MPS Bilingual Resolution
- ▶ History of Bilingual Education
- ▶ World Language and Immersion Programs
- ▶ First Nations Studies Program

Following a welcome by Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett, families enjoyed student performances by several groups from MPS schools.





Milwaukee German Immersion School: Schottisch Dance, Swedisher Dance, and songs “Winterkinder” and “Aber die Musici”

South Division High School: Laotian Dance

Oliver Wendell Holmes School: Kou Kou Dance

Milwaukee Academy of Chinese Language: Indian Dance to “Nimboda Nimboda”

Hayes Bilingual School: Cuadro de Jalisco Dance



Breakout sessions explored topics about district initiatives and student impact, including:

- ▶ Community Engagement in MPS: The Bilingual Resolution
- ▶ Bilingual Education and English as a Second Language (ESL) Programming
- ▶ Immersion Education in MPS
- ▶ World Language: Use of Language in and out of the Classroom
- ▶ First Nations: Language is Culture
- ▶ A Brief History of Bilingual Education in Milwaukee and Bilingualism



Many families of current MPS students expressed their appreciation of language programs and new families sought information about enrolling their children.

Free books for MPS students and author visit at Hopkins Lloyd

Students in 14 MPS schools took home free books in December as part of the My Very Own Library (MVOL) program. MVOL is a literacy initiative dedicated to putting books into the hands of children in need. This is the fourth year of the initiative in the city of Milwaukee.

At **Hopkins Lloyd Community School**, an assembly was held so students could meet and listen to Angela Cervantes, an award-winning author of contemporary middle-grade novels. Cervantes read from her second novel, *Allie, First at Last*, which tells the story of a young girl’s deep desire to be first at something. The book was available for students to choose as one of their free books.



Milwaukee is one of seven communities selected to take part in the MVOL program, which is supported by the United Way of Greater Milwaukee & Waukesha County, the Feeley Family Foundation in honor of the late Anne

Feeley, Milwaukee Public Schools, and Scholastic Book Fairs. Inaugural partners United Way of Greater Milwaukee & Waukesha County and Milwaukee Public Schools continue to support MVOL at ten MPS schools. An additional contribution from the Zilber Foundation expanded the program to add four additional schools: **Longfellow Elementary, Hopkins Lloyd Community School, Milwaukee College Prep – Lloyd St., and Milwaukee College Prep – Lola Rowe.**

During the last school year, the My Very Own Library program distributed 34,200 books to students in ten MPS schools: **Kluge; Auer Avenue School; Brown Street Academy; Hopkins Lloyd Community School; Jackson Early Childhood and Elementary School; Kagel School; Lancaster School; James Whitcomb Riley School; Townsend Street School; and Clement J. Zablocki School.** By the end of this school year, students in all 14 MVOL schools will have received 50,000 books for their home libraries.

MENTOR Greater Milwaukee is launched to support youth

In a celebration hosted by the Milwaukee Bucks at Fiserv Forum, MENTOR: The National Mentoring Partnership announced the launch of a new initiative in Milwaukee designed to expand mentoring and support young people. **MENTOR Greater Milwaukee** will be a partnership among Milwaukee Public Schools, the **Milwaukee Bucks**, and the **City of Milwaukee**. This partnership is the first of its kind to include an NBA team, its host city, and the largest school district in the state.

MENTOR Greater Milwaukee will provide the necessary infrastructure to improve mentoring program quality, recruit and support more mentors, scale effective programs and innovations, foster collaborations to transform systems, collect data to describe the impact of mentoring in the broader community, identify gaps in the range of services needed, influence public policy, and increase philanthropic support for the field.

Milwaukee was selected to become the 25th MENTOR affiliate in part because the city shows a substantial gap between the number of young people seeking mentors and the number of quality mentors available to serve them. One of the initial goals of the program is to launch a 1,000 Mentors for Youth Challenge to be completed by 2021.

Milwaukee Public Schools looks forward to the many supports our students will receive through this partnership with the Milwaukee Bucks and the City of Milwaukee. Special thanks to our strategic partners, the **AI Hurvis/ADAMM Education Foundation** and the **Milwaukee County Office of African-American Affairs**.



MPS Reads draws students to independent reading

Students who read in their free time are shown to be better readers, have a larger vocabulary, score higher on tests, and have greater content knowledge. To boost independent reading, MPS is launching MPS Reads. The initiative will feature a monthly list of recommended books for all ages on a broad range of multicultural topics that are meaningful for students.

MPS Reads was designed as part of Dr. Keith P. Posley's Ambitious Instruction Plan, devised to increase achievement across the district. Upon assuming leadership of MPS, Dr. Posley identified reading, writing, and mathematics as key areas of focus. Promoting independent reading is one aspect of his plans to boost reading and writing proficiency.

To view monthly lists of recommended books or to suggest a title for a future list, visit the MPS Reads web page.

AWARDS/RECOGNITION

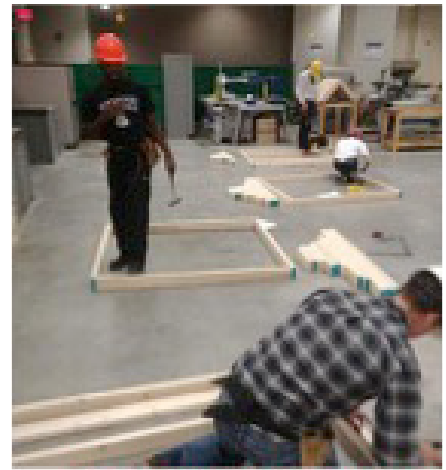
Harbor Freight Tools awards \$5,000 to Bradley Tech

Retail giant **Harbor Freight Tools** has selected **Lynde and Harry Bradley Technology and Trade School** as one of 12 schools across the country to receive a \$5,000 cash grant. The funds will support the school's Skills USA program, which allows students to compete in activities centered on career and technical education.

Through the SkillsUSA program, students enter local competitions and compete against their peers from among dozens of categories that include architectural drafting, automotive skills, carpentry, culinary arts, engineering, equipment technology, job interview, appliance technology, plumbing, public speaking, robotics, and more. In spring 2018, Coaches **Jeff Lemmer** and

Sharon Hegwood led a team of ten students to the state competition. One of their groups, made up of **Karina Damian**, **Ibrahim Abukar**, and **Donyana Johnson**, earned a second-place medal in the Promotional Bulletin Board category, which required the students to design and build a board to promote their SkillsUSA chapter.

The grant from Harbor Freight Tools will support material expenses, fees, and travel to regional and state Skills USA competitions.



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 great deal 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 met with 18 students from **Milwaukee High School of the Arts**. These talented students took pride in their arts programming. They spoke about the discipline and dedication it takes to perfect their art forms, and added that their hard work is helping them develop a strong work ethic, which will help them in career they pursue in the future. The students also shared several areas of concern, and ideas for improving opportunities for MPS students. For example, students shared their opinions on class selection, J-Term, school safety and funding.

