

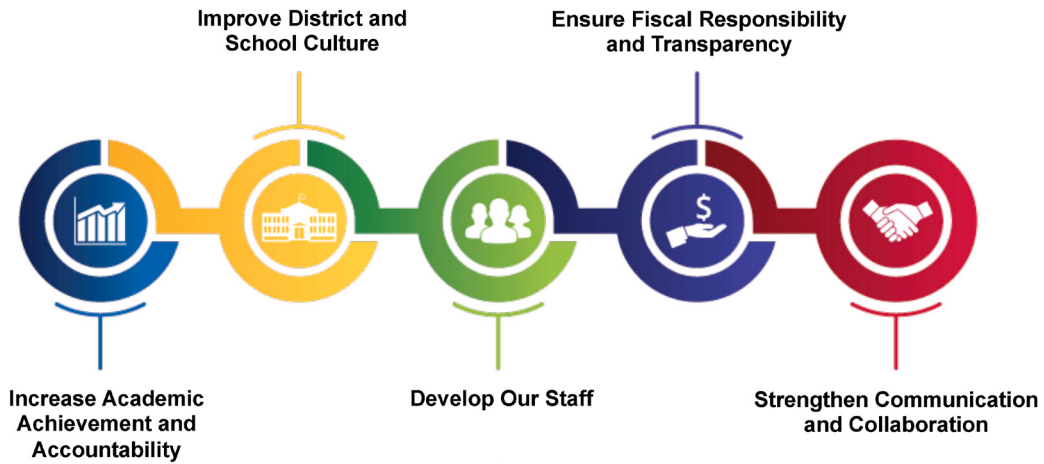


MILWAUKEE PUBLIC SCHOOLS



### Superintendent's Report – September

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:



Exciting things are happening in MPS, and our staff have been working diligently to prepare for a strong year. As we begin our 2018–19 school year, I firmly believe that we will make progress in our district with a strong academic focus in reading, writing, and mathematics.

The "Run Back to School" race was a huge success when hundreds of runners, volunteers, community leaders, staff members, and mascots joined me at Wick Field to kick off the school year. While finishing the 5K run or 1.5-mile walk around Washington Park was the immediate goal for all participating, everyone was there in the spirit of school and neighborhood unity at this event to support the health and well-being of our youth. Once again, the MPS Recreation Department did an outstanding job coordinating this event!

We celebrated *Day One* for students on the traditional calendar at **Maple Tree Elementary School** with **Mayor Tom Barrett**, **State Superintendent Tony Evers**, and **Police Chief Alfonso Morales** present to help us welcome students back to school.

I visited with students and staff at many MPS schools this month including **Kluge**, **53rd Street**, **Cooper**, **Milwaukee French Immersion**, **Browning**, **Stuart**, **Lee Learning Center**, **Thoreau**, **Wisconsin Conservatory of Lifelong Learning**, and **Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. School** where I gave remarks for the



88.9 No Empty Backpacks School Supply Drive. I also visited **North Division High School** and conducted a student focus group as part of our youth voice efforts.

During September, I continued to meet with partners, business and community leaders, and staff including **Dr. Carol Johnson** from **National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP)**; **Wisconsin Department of Children and**



**Families Secretary Eloise Anderson** and her staff; **George Hinton** from the **Social Development Commission**; and **Greg Wesley**, Senior Vice President of **The Medical College of Wisconsin** and his team. I also met the **U.S. Department of Education Assistant Secretary Frank Brogan** who visited **Ronald Reagan College Preparatory High School** as part of the Department's "Rethink School" back to school tour.

## EVENTS/PROGRAMS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Backpacks for MPS Students Deliver Smiles and School Supplies

Students selected backpacks in their favorite colors at eight MPS schools thanks to the generosity of the Milwaukee community. Through the No Empty Backpacks program presented by *88Nine* and the *Milwaukee Business Journal*, Milwaukee residents and businesses were invited to donate school supplies to assist local children and help ensure a great school year.



This year's No Empty Backpacks drive collected more than 50,000 items to benefit eight MPS schools, topping the 37,000 items received last year. Donated supplies include backpacks, crayons, glue sticks, pencils, pens, notebooks, markers, calculators and more. Support from **Robert W. Baird, Educators Credit Union, Michael Best & Friedrich, Northwestern Mutual, and CH Coakley** made this effort possible along with the many generous business across the city that served as drop-off locations.

Backpacks were distributed on September 12 at **Craig Montessori, Clara Barton, Andrew S. Douglas, Lloyd Barbee Montessori, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary, Kagel, Starms Early Childhood, and Metcalfe School**. Students at King enjoyed a celebration that included live music by Klassik and a DJ performance by Kenny Perez of Radio Milwaukee.

### Blessings in a Backpack

One hundred students at **Townsend Street Elementary School** will go home every weekend during the school year with backpacks full of food to ensure they are nourished thanks to **Blessings in a Backpack, Chase Anderson** from the **Milwaukee Brewers**, and **Dreambuilders Foundation**, who teamed up with **United Health Care** employee volunteers to make this possible.



MPS is grateful to the many organizations and groups that have spearheaded efforts to donate

backpacks including **AT&T Pioneers, T-Mobile, 88.9 Radio Milwaukee, Kids in Need Foundation, and Class Act**. Much appreciation!



### Team8 Tour Milwaukee

*Team8 Tour Milwaukee* visited **Washington High School of Information Technology** to renovate and unveil their weight room, fitness center, and café, and I was honored to participate in the ribbon-cutting event. We appreciate the generous work from **Team8 Tour, Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation, United Healthcare, EcoMedia** and the many volunteers.



## Allen-Field Celebrates 50th Anniversary — ¡Celebrando 50 Años de Excelencia!



Current and previous staff, students, and families enjoyed an afternoon of reminiscing about past accomplishments and looking forward to future success as Allen-Field celebrated 50 years as an education and community anchor on Milwaukee's near south side. Generations of students, staff, and families were on hand on September 13 as **Allen-Field Elementary School** celebrated a half-century of educating children on Milwaukee's south side. The school, an education landmark on 7th Street and Lapham Boulevard, is one of Milwaukee's oldest bilingual schools. As part of the celebration, attendees enjoyed food and live performances from the popular Afro-Caribbean and Latin jazz orchestra De La Buena. The public also enjoyed tours of the school and displays of student artwork.

In coordination with the anniversary, the school unveiled a one-of-a-kind art mural basketball court that brings a splash of color and culture to the school. The mural on the court was created by H2 Collaborative.

## AWARDS/RECOGNITION

### Brenda Mikell Named University of Chicago's Outstanding Educator Award

**Brenda Mikell**, school counselor/teacher at **Rufus King IB School**, has been selected for the University of Chicago's Outstanding Educator Award. This distinguished award has existed for more than three decades and recognizes educators who have changed the course of their student's lives. Ms. Mikell was nominated by a first-year student for being a teacher who was influential in their path toward intellectual growth.



### Teacher David Kontz is Semi-Finalist for Teaching Award

**David Kontz** from **Barack Obama School of Career and Technical Education**, has been named a semifinalist in the *Harbor Freight Tools for Schools 2018 Prize for Teaching Excellence*.

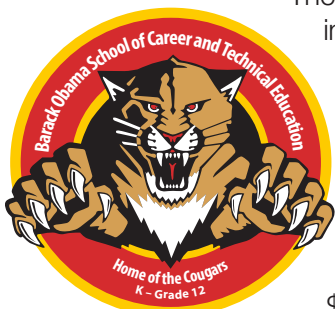
Kontz teaches welding, manufacturing, and heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC), and is the department chair for technical education. He and fellow teachers Dan Johnston and Monica Hall coach the school's Skills USA team, which saw six students compete at the state level this year, with four bringing home medals.



The Harbor Freight Tools for Schools prize for Teaching Excellence honors outstanding teachers in the skilled trades in U.S. public schools. It recognizes teaching excellence that enables students to learn deeply and be career ready for in-demand jobs.

Every teacher or teacher team applying for the award gains free access to a series of expert-led learning modules online to help them be even more effective in the classroom.

Out of 557 entries, Kontz was notified that he is among 52 semi-finalists. In November, Harbor Freight Tools will announce the winners of 18 awards. Three first-place winners will receive \$100,000 with \$70,000 going to the high school skilled trades program and \$30,000 to the individual teacher/team. Fifteen second-place winners will receive \$50,000 with \$35,000 to the high school program and \$15,000 to the teacher/team.



## UPDATE ON CIVIC EDUCATION EFFORTS IN OUR SCHOOLS

In June 2018, the Board took action to further enhance district efforts regarding civic education (voting, voter registration, civic engagement) in our schools. The district curriculum currently addresses the role of local government (aldermen/women, common council, school board) including elections within the district's Citizenship course. This course has been redesigned to include citizen action and service to the community through active participation. The Administration is further refining curriculum to include additional informations and lessons regarding the role of the Milwaukee Board of School Directors.

Through our partnerships with the Milwaukee City Election Commission and the League of Women Voters, voter registration is held in all MPS high schools every year. Our goal is for voter registration to be a rite of passage for all eligible students as part of their high school experience.

District staff have also worked with these entities, to develop a Voter Registration toolkit that is located in every high school. The toolkit includes information on how to register, lesson plans, online resources, and potential guest speakers and promotional ideas. Every high school has a Voter Registration liaison to help and assist all high school students in registering to vote.

There is no age requirement for a student to learn about online voter registration and then assist their peers to register. Through our partnership we are focusing on training student groups in grades 9-12th with the idea that some of them will be available in the following year to help us again. Last year, there were eight student-training sessions where after completing the session the students helped at registration events. A notable example was the training of Riverside High School Student Council members who then organized a registration event themselves in honor of National Voter Registration Day.



## 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. As such, I have been conducting my own listening sessions with students and gathering ideas and feedback from Board members and staff on how to accomplish this. As a starting point, I would like to begin incorporating student voice in my monthly report to the Board and community. At the September Board meeting, students from North Division will provide a report on various topics discussed with me when I visited their school. Students shared what makes them most proud to be part of the Milwaukee Public Schools as well as things they want and need from the district to be successful.

