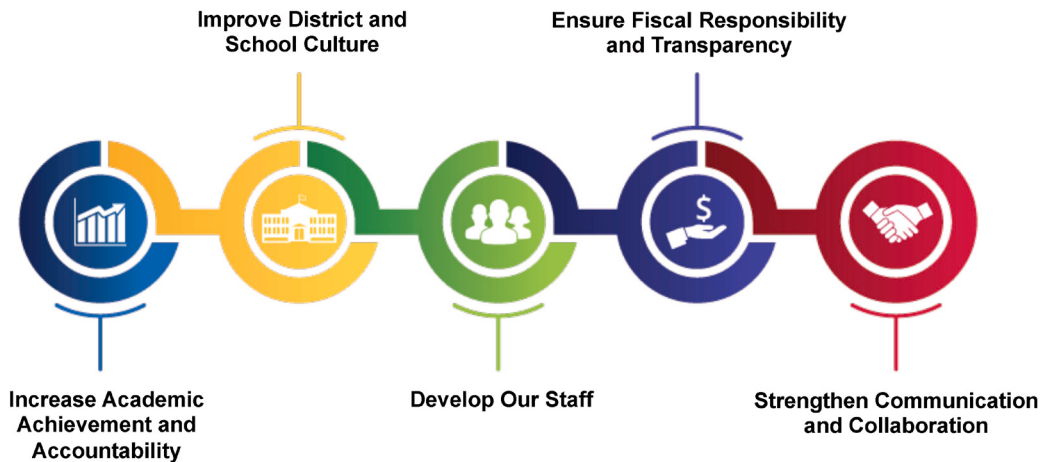




## Superintendent's Report – March

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 **Bay View, Kilbourn, Thurston Woods, Victory, Hartford, Greenfield, Washington,** and **Story**. I participated in NEA's *Read Across America* Day at **Milwaukee Spanish Immersion School** and I also was able to stop in at **Hawley**.



## WIAA State Basketball Tournament: Congratulations to Washington High School and Bay View High School!

Student athletes from Washington High School and Bay View High School and their coaches are to be congratulated for their skillful play leading up to and at the 2019 State Boys Basketball Tournament. The two schools ended up playing each other in a playoff game at Milwaukee Lutheran. It was a great game, with Washington advancing to the 2019 State Boys Basketball Tournament. After Washington was victorious over La Crosse Central, they played Nicolet High School in the finals. Washington ended the season as the state runner-up after a close game. Kudos to Bay View and Washington for a great season with many accomplishments!



**BAY VIEW  
HIGH SCHOOL**



## EVENTS/PROGRAMS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

### FBI adopts Parkside School to promote excellence

**Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)** agents and staff members have begun paying regular visits to **Milwaukee Parkside School for the Arts** as part of the FBI Adopt-a-School program. This nationwide initiative builds relationships and trust between youth and law enforcement. The FBI Milwaukee Division worked with MPS officials in selecting Parkside School for the Adopt-a-School program, which started on February 26 and runs through April 30, 2019.



Throughout the program, FBI representatives will visit the school and talk to students about the history and mission of the FBI, reinforce basic academic principles, help students practice responsible behavior, train students on Internet safety, and encourage students to focus on school and stay away from drugs and violence. Michelle Sutphin, Acting Special Agent in Charge of the Milwaukee Division of the FBI, joined Dr. Toni Dinkins, Interim Regional Superintendent of MPS, to launch the program for middle school students.

At the conclusion of the program in April, students will tour the FBI Milwaukee Division, take part in an interactive evidence collection exercise, and enjoy a graduation ceremony and lunch sponsored by the Milwaukee Chapter of the FBI Citizens Academy Alumni Association. We look forward to the many great experiences our students will gain from this partnership!



### Lowe's makes grant to garden space at Milwaukee German Immersion School

Students and staff are celebrating at **Milwaukee German Immersion School (MGIS)** after being awarded a cash grant from Lowe's Toolbox for Education. The school has received \$4,605 that will be used to improve the courtyard by adding picnic tables, benches, and shade sails. These additions will make the space available for instruction, outdoor school dining, and other school activities including family movie nights, Parent-Teacher Association meetings, and summer KinderCamp.



Last year, the school added a vegetable garden and a beautiful outdoor classroom. MGIS is grateful to community businesses, such as Lowe's, and dedicated volunteers. By April 2019, this project is expected to be completed. MGIS children and staff are all looking forward to enjoying the new outdoor learning environment.

## Bradley Tech High School receives grant to support aviation careers

Lynde and Harry Bradley Technology and Trade School, the Greater Milwaukee Committee (GMC), and Milwaukee Area Technical College (MATC) have been selected to receive a portion of a \$1 million Southwest Airlines Charitable Grant that focuses on building a stronger workforce of tomorrow. The grant will fund the Expanding Milwaukee's Aviation Pipeline project.



The Texas-based airline is supporting two dozen nonprofit organizations across the country which are, in turn, strengthening their communities through K–12 science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education; building a resilient workforce; and, developing future leaders.

The Expanding Milwaukee's Aviation Pipeline project is a strategic partnership between the Greater Milwaukee Committee, Milwaukee Area Technical College, and Bradley Tech High School. The partners will work to align existing

programs and expand enrollment in MATC's aviation program to increase the number of workforce-ready candidates.

The collaborative will result in a pipeline for MATC's Aviation Technician program, starting with outreach activities at Bradley Tech, the premier technology and trade high school in Milwaukee. Bradley Tech educates more than 900 students and currently partners with MATC to offer college credit classes in construction, design, manufacturing, and pre-engineering.

Through this project, partners will coordinate recruitment and field experiences for Bradley Tech students in the spring and fall semesters to increase student knowledge of aviation careers. These will include tour experiences at Mitchell International Airport and two recruitment events at MATC. Approximately 80 high school students are anticipated to participate in the experiences. MPS is grateful to Southwest Airlines for providing this unique career opportunity to Milwaukee students.

## AWARDS/RECOGNITION

### Riverside RoboTigers qualify for FIRST Robotics world championship

After a strong start to the 2019 robotics season, the **Riverside University High School RoboTigers** stood up to more than 50 teams from across the country to reach the finals of their regional competition and come home with a win! The group competed in Chicago on March 9–10, and the impressive win qualified the team for the *FIRST Robotics* Championship in Detroit, scheduled for April 24–27.



The students who make up the RoboTigers represent several MPS high schools. About half the team members are girls—an unusually high ratio in the robotics world. The students are the designers, fabricators, mechanics, programmers, and operators of their robot. With support from local businesses, teachers, alumni, and mentors, the students of Riverside Robotics have created a nationally competitive robot. This is the third consecutive year the RoboTigers have made it to FIRST Robotics championships.



The toughest part of the team's journey is now underway. The RoboTigers are attempting to raise an additional \$10,000 for their trip to cover costs for hotels, meals, and transportation. Corporate donations from Rockwell Automation, GE Healthcare, and other local companies are covering the team's entrance fee for the event, but more is needed quickly.

The RoboTigers, along with MPS students from **Bay View**, **Bradley Tech**, and **Riverside**, will compete at the Wisconsin Regional competition at the UWM Panther Arena, March 28–30.

## MPS music programs receive funding through *Let The Music Play* grants

**Milwaukee World Festival, Inc.** and **American Family Insurance** have announced the recipients of the inaugural *Let The Music Play* program grants. Three programs in Milwaukee Public Schools will receive funding to support music education. Grant-winning programs incorporate a performance element for young people; funding helps provide access to equipment or musical training that otherwise would have been unavailable to these student communities.



MPS 2019 grant recipients are celebrating their gifts and preparing to implement proposed activities.

- ▶ **Carmen Schools of Science and Technology:** Funds will support the middle and high school drumline program at the Northwest Campus, costs for percussion clinicians to provide intermediate and advanced training to the students, and supplies and materials.
- ▶ **Alexander Mitchell Integrated Arts School:** Funds will be used to purchase a 37-note set of hand chimes and sheet music for schoolwide use.
- ▶ **Townsend Street School:** Funds will allow the Townsend student ensemble to purchase sheet music, music stands, microphones, vocal instruction, and various instruments.



The new *Let The Music Play* grant program supports nonprofit organizations and schools that serve Milwaukee County through music programming for students aged 11 to 18. The grant program is intended to represent the variety of music activities taking place in the greater Milwaukee community and is open to programs in band, orchestra, jazz, musical theater, and dance.



Recipients must demonstrate the ability to present a finished, 7- to 10-minute performance. Grant recipients will showcase their talents at Summerfest 2019.

## Herb Kohl Educational Foundation honors MPS students and teachers

More than 180 graduating seniors, 100 teachers, and 16 principals across Wisconsin have been selected to receive honors and monetary awards this year from the Herb Kohl Educational Foundation. Milwaukee Public Schools is proud of ten teachers and nine students who are counted among the honorees. Awards and scholarships will be presented by former U.S. Senator Herb Kohl in an awards ceremony on April 13 at Greenfield High School.

### 2019 MPS Teacher Honorees

Alexander Branderhorst, Milwaukee High School of the Arts  
 Raymond Duncan, Marshall High School  
 Tina Gleason, Golda Meir School  
 Jocelyn Johnson, Academy of Accelerated Learning  
 Margaret Petershack, Transition High School  
 Kaitlynn Radloff, Milwaukee High School of the Arts  
 Aimie Rognsvoog, IDEAL  
 Chad Sperzel-Wuchterl, Reagan High School  
 Nancy Wisniewski, Mitchell Elementary School  
 Kaela Zielinski, Academy of Accelerated Learning

### Excellence Scholarships

*Nine MPS students have been selected as recipients in scholarship categories.*

Alanna Bielawski, Reagan High School  
 Alyssa Eske, Rufus King International High School  
 Nyia Garrett, Reagan High School  
 Vivica Lewis, Carmen High School South Campus  
 Sierra Richardson, Riverside High School  
 Mia Rimmer, King International High School  
 Erick Torres-Gonzalez, Reagan High School  
 Madison Xiong, Reagan High School

### Initiative Scholarship

Avian Cruz, Milwaukee High School of the Arts

Excellence Scholarship recipients demonstrate academic excellence, high motivation, and a broad range of activity and leadership. Initiative Scholarship recipients demonstrate initiative in school and strong promise for success in college and beyond. Winners in each category receive a \$10,000 scholarship.



**Herb Kohl**

Educational Foundation, Inc.

Teacher Fellowship recipients are chosen for leadership, service and a superior ability to inspire a love of learning in students. These honors come with a \$6,000 award.

The Kohl Foundation Scholarship and Fellowship program was established by Herb Kohl, philanthropist and businessman, in 1990. To date, the foundation has awarded \$17.8 million to Wisconsin educators, principals, students, and schools.

## **MPS celebrates National School Social Work Week**

The ability to learn can be impacted by many factors in a student's life: nutrition, stability, learning disabilities, physical challenges, socioeconomic status, language, home life, and more. School social workers (SSWs) bridge gaps for our students by focusing on individual student needs, connecting families to resources, and promoting safety and wellness that can lead to improved learning.

School social workers enhance the district's ability to meet its academic mission by linking the home, school, and community so students can achieve success. Most MPS SSWs are based in schools, providing direct services to students. Many more SSWs are in special assignments throughout the district, providing services that support mental health grants, initial special education evaluations, district attendance initiatives, community service/service-learning mentorship, the Homeless Education Program, and more.



Social workers are trained to look at situations in a holistic way and to help bring together people and communities to find ways to address pressing individual, group, and societal issues such as hunger, affordable housing, equal rights for all, and education success. In MPS, social workers focus on meeting the needs of students with the goal of helping every child find a pathway to a productive life. Family support is a large element of helping students succeed.

At any given time, MPS is educating 5,000 homeless students and 500 refugee students. One in five MPS students has special needs and 81 percent are economically disadvantaged. School social workers support children and their families with a wide range of needs and in a wide variety of situations. MPS is proud of the role our social workers play in the success of our students, and the entire district is grateful for their service!

## **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 would like to highlight the student focus group I held at South Division High School where I met with a group of 11 students. We had a robust conversation about what they are proud of as MPS students and what they want and need from the district. Many students agreed that their teachers and their diverse school community make them proud to be part of our district. With great excitement, they referenced the 22 different languages and dialects spoken at South Division. Students also shared a variety of opinions and suggestions for improving their school experience.

