



**MILWAUKEE
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Dear MPS Families and Staff,

With our 2021–22 school year underway, MPS will continue to share helpful information to keep everyone up to date. We have important news about vaccines, federal ESSER funding, and MPS Spirit Week.

Staff Vaccine Mandate Passes; Student Incentive Is Approved

The Milwaukee Board of School Directors held a special meeting on September 9, 2021, to discuss a COVID-19 vaccine mandate. The Board voted unanimously to implement a vaccination requirement for all staff. Religious and medical accommodations will be allowed, but exempt individuals will be required to take part in COVID-19 testing twice per week. Employees will be required to become fully vaccinated by November 1, 2021.

To encourage students to become vaccinated, the Board also unanimously approved a \$100 incentive for MPS students age 12 and older. Those students who provide proof of being fully vaccinated by November 1, 2021, are eligible for the incentive.

Employees and families will receive more details from the district in the coming days, including how to request an accommodation, how to submit proof of vaccination, how to apply for the student incentive, noncompliance conditions, and more.

Community Vaccine Availability

Health officials are urging everyone who is eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine to become vaccinated as soon as possible. The vaccine reduces the chance of infection and helps slow the spread of the disease.

Free vaccines are widely available for everyone age 12 and older. To find vaccines, visit the [City of Milwaukee Health Department COVID-19](#) web page, contact your health care provider, or check with a local pharmacy.

To maximize access to COVID-19 vaccine, the district is exploring additional pop-up clinics at schools to provide convenient availability. Watch for announcements in the coming weeks.

Health and Safety Is a Community Effort

We can all do our part to keep our community safe and healthy by wearing face masks in public, practicing physical distancing, covering coughs and sneezes, and being alert for COVID-19 symptoms. Individuals who show symptoms or are exposed to COVID-19

should stay home and get tested. [Important quarantine and isolation guidelines](#) (available in multiple languages) have been prepared by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS). DHS also has available [COVID-19 and School: Information for Parents and Guardians](#) available in multiple languages. MPS recommends accessing these guidelines to enhance safety for everyone.

ESSER Funding Priority Areas

We invite all families and staff to take part in a survey to help prioritize the use of federal grants known as Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds. MPS is receiving millions of dollars to make improvements throughout the district. After a community survey and a number of listening sessions to identify areas of need, we now invite you to read our proposed plan and help prioritize the projects that have been identified. Please read more and [access our survey](#) on our [ESSER funding web page](#). The survey will remain open until September 16, 2021.

Celebrate MPS Spirit Week

MPS will host Spirit Week September 13-17, 2021, so students and staff can take part in special dress days and celebrate MPS pride.

Monday: School Pride/School Colors Day

Tuesday: Crazy Sock Day

Wednesday: Book Celebrity Day

Thursday: College and Career Day

Friday: Number One Fan/Favorite Team Day

Take photos during Spirit Week and post on social media using #MPSProud.

MPS is also excited to announce the return of one of the most popular school lunch items--Mock Chicken Leg! This tasty treat will be offered for the first time this school year during Spirit Week on September 17.

Don't miss out! Take part in Spirit Week, enjoy Mock Chicken Leg, and be in school every day. See you in class!

[Download a flyer of Spirit Week themes!](#)

As a district, our goal is to keep students in school and engaged in learning daily. Our best defense against COVID-19 is to come together as a community and get vaccinated, continue to wear face masks, and follow safe practices. We encourage everyone to combine our efforts for a safer Milwaukee.

We thank you in advance for your participation and we pledge our continued efforts to keep students, staff, and families safe.

Sincerely,