August 26, 2021

Dear MPS Staff,

We have had an outstanding start! I have been able to visit all of the sites on the first three days of school, and I can say that I am more than impressed with what I have observed. The culture in every building is warm and inviting which translates to a positive learning environment for students.

The most impressive observation was the teaching and learning already occurring at each site. I saw teachers “on their feet” facilitating and presenting lessons on the first day of school. I also noticed our buildings looking pristine; the floors were shining, the restrooms were clean, and the classrooms were organized. As always, I thoroughly enjoyed seeing the decorated classrooms, which speaks to the importance of a classroom environment conducive to the teaching and learning process.

Another piece of great news – our enrollment continues to climb. We opened on the first day of school with 4,666 students and we grew to 4,795 on the second day. Today, we have additional students waiting in line to enroll. These increased numbers come with growing pains, such as increased class sizes, understaffing, and operational concerns. However, our team is working diligently to remedy these issues as quickly as possible.

Please remember the words of Jim Warford, “We must Maslow before we Bloom.” The idea that our students and staff need their basic needs addressed before seeing growth or development is true. I encourage you to keep your focus on these needs as we move forward into the new school year.

Again, great start! I have sensed a positive spirit at all of the sites, and I give you all the credit in making this the reality. We can build new facilities and improve the look but it is each of you who will make the real difference.

GREAT JOB!

Jarod Mendenhall, Ed.D.
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