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Milwaukee Community Schools Partnership Adds Two New MPS Schools

MILWAUKEE, WI – September 25, 2018 — United Way of Greater Milwaukee & Waukesha County, Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS), and the Milwaukee Teachers' Education Association (MTEA) are excited to welcome two new schools into the Milwaukee Community Schools Partnership.

After a competitive application process, Zablocki Elementary and North Division High School were invited to be the ninth and tenth Community Schools in Milwaukee. Each school will receive a full-time community school coordinator hired by a partner agency.

"The community schools strategy is showing positive growth in eight MPS schools, and we are excited for Zablocki and North Division to join the Milwaukee Community Schools Partnership," said Dr. Keith Posley, interim superintendent of Milwaukee Public Schools. "Increasing communication and collaboration with families and the community is helping to drive academic achievement and improved school climate. This level of investment from our partners is one of the biggest game-changers in education."

"We are so proud of being a lead partner in the Milwaukee Community Schools Partnership," said Nicole Angresano, vice president of Community Impact at United Way. "Community Schools are not only a proven equity strategy, but they are also a rallying call for the entire city to dig deep and work together to create the schools that every student deserves."

"MTEA educators have witnessed first-hand the profound difference the public Community Schools model has made in the lives of MPS students attending these schools," said Ingrid Henry, vice president of MTEA. "We are thrilled to see the model expanding and are committed to the success of the students and families at North Division High School and Zablocki Elementary."

Sixteenth Street Community Health Center will employ the community school coordinator assigned to Zablocki Elementary.





"We are very excited to begin the Community School strategy that will allow us to work with a set of partnerships and other community resources to excel student learning, lead to stronger families and sustain a healthy community around our school," said Chris Garza, principal of Zablocki Elementary "We look forward to becoming the center of our community while maintaining the tradition of being a neighborhood school."

The Milwaukee Urban League will hire and employ the community school coordinator assigned to North Division High School.

"The Milwaukee Urban League is proud to become one of the newest members of the Milwaukee Community Schools Partnership," said Dr. Eve Hall, president and CEO. "Partnering with North Division allows us to enhance employment and training opportunities in high demand industries, and career and college readiness programs for young people. Because the league is a connector, we will be able to engage students, teachers, and parents in additional community, economic development and business activities."

In the coming months, both schools will engage stakeholders including students, families, community residents, school staff and community partner organizations in the process of identifying key priorities and strategies. This process will result in a strategic plan that will guide each school's vision for success.

Community Schools is a proven model to increase a school's capacity to better engage and align partnerships centered on the self-identified, real-time priorities of schools and communities. This strategy places the focus on the whole child by providing academic supports, social and emotional learning, health and wellness, family and community engagement, and a safe and supportive climate.

In addition to Zablocki Elementary and North Division High School, the Milwaukee Community Schools are Auer Avenue Community School, Bradley Tech High School, Browning Elementary, Hopkins Lloyd Community School, James Madison Academic Campus, Lincoln Avenue School, Longfellow School, and South Division High School.

About the Milwaukee Community Schools Partnership

The [*Milwaukee Community Schools Partnership*](#) (MCSP) is a collective strategy to transform schools into a place where students, families, staff, and the surrounding community can work together to ensure every student is successful. MCSP is co-led by United Way, MPS and MTEA. MCSP is a local affiliate of the National [*Coalition for Community Schools*](#). For more information about MCSP, contact: [*communityschools@unitedwaygmwc.org*](mailto:communityschools@unitedwaygmwc.org).

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