



Instruction Work Group

August 3, 2026



MMSD Vision

MMSD will be a learning community where all students are valued, challenged, supported, and inspired to reach for their dreams.



MMSD Mission

MMSD creates safe and inclusive schools, delivers high-quality instruction, strengthens positive relationships, and partners with families and the community to achieve student self-determination and educational excellence.





Guiding Commitments

- Lead with Equity
- Foster Belonging
- Deliver Meaningful Learning
- Improve with Purpose
- Embrace our Collective Impact

Closing Out the 2025–26 School Year

Highlights from Summer
Programming

4K-12 By the Numbers

4090 Students

4K-4th = 1307

5th-8th = 1037

9th-12th = 1710

640 Transition

4K = 119

Incoming 6th = 316

Incoming 9th = 202

226 students in

Extended School Year
(ESY)



Dance at Chavez



Literacy at
Theresa Terrace

678 Staff*

674 MMSD Staff

4 External Staff

(*Teaching, Admin, Building Services, ESY, Health Services, CDF, SIT)

16 MMSD Sites

9 Elementary

4 Middle/High

3 High

2 New First Time

Credit Courses

8 Classrooms across 4 Community Partnership Sites

(East Madison Community Center,
Theresa Terrace, Bay View Community
Center, Northport Community Center)

Summer Arts by the Numbers



Summer Arts Academy Programming Area	Students Served
Summer Arts Explore Almost 30 community teaching artists contracted across all summer sites which included dance, music, visual art, and theater programming	Nearly 1800 students in our elementary and middle school sites
Band & Orchestra Lesson Programs	352 students participated in Band & Orchestra Lessons during Summer Semester
Arts Community Seat Program Five programs	Serving nearly 100 students and focusing on MMSD K-12 students of color



Art at Chavez Elementary School

2026 CTE Discovery Camps by the Numbers

21 camps offered

- Auto and Transportation
- Barbering
- Business and Entrepreneurship
- Clinical Nutrition
- Coding and Robotics, 2 Sections
- Culinary Arts, 4 Sections
- Design and Marketing
- Discover Video Production, 2 Sections
- Engineering Design, 2 Sections
- Flight and Drone Technology, 2 Sections
- Skilled Trade: Construction, 3 Sections
- Technology and Innovation: Be Your Own Boss

284 students

- 346 Applicants
- 265 Unique students

98% of PARENTS

Who completed the survey would recommend the camp.

37 schools

- 12 Middle schools
- 23 Elementary schools

86% of STUDENTS

Who completed the survey indicated the camp met their learning needs



Thank You to Our Industry and Community Partners

Their support powers the CTE Summer Discovery Program

Monetary Donations

Financial contributions supporting camp operations, materials, and business start-up gifts cards to students

Equipment & Supplies

Tools, machines, and materials for hands-on lab experiences

Instructional Resources

Curriculum materials supporting camp activities and learning

Camp Shirts & Snacks

Branded apparel and refreshments for campers and staff

Time & Expertise

On-site demos and presentations led by industry professionals

Site Visits

Tours and hands-on experiences at partners' facilities





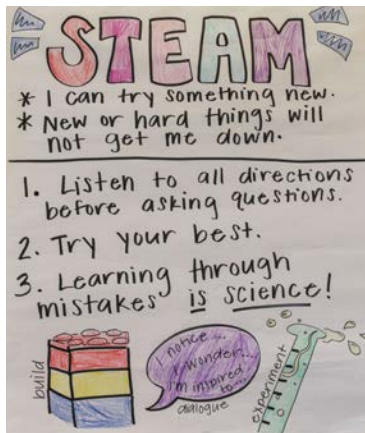
Full List of Industry and Community Partners

- American Transmission Company
- Boys & Girls Club of Dane County
- CEOs of Tomorrow
- Electronic Theatre Controls Inc
- Findorff
- Hooper Corporation
- Kriete Trucks, Inc
- IBEW Local 159
- Inspire Barber & Beauty Salon
- Paxton and Patterson
- UW Madison Food Science Program
- Wisconsin Aviation



Community Sites

"By bringing learning directly into neighborhoods, we're able to remove barriers to participation while creating spaces where students grow academically, build confidence and experience the joy of learning alongside their peers."



4

Neighborhood
Based Community
Centers

8

New Classrooms

154

K-8 Students enrolled

100% of parents

Who completed the 2025
survey would recommend
the program.



SES Community Summer Sites

7 sites

- Bayview
- Boys and Girls Club (Allied)
- Boys and Girls Club (Taft)
- East Madison Community Center
- Goodman Community Center
- Kennedy Heights
- Lussier Community Center

Student Attendance Hours:

19,633

Number of students served:

270





Freedom Schools History

Timeline

- **1964** – Mississippi Freedom Summer & Original Freedom Schools
- **1973** – Children's Defense Fund (CDF) Founded
- **1995** – CDF Freedom Schools Relaunch
- **2025** – MMSD Launches Freedom Schools
- **2026** – Second year in MMSD

From the Civil Rights Movement to MMSD: Continuing a national legacy of literacy, leadership and opportunity.





Freedom Schools



“ I have been with MMSD for many years and attending/participating in that training was re-energizing for my purpose in liberation work. Deepening my understanding of Freedom Schools and having many folks come together from across different ages and locations across the country was needed and was powerful.
– Rachelle Stone

“National training was an experience that I have never had before. To be on the land where history was made and in the classroom spaces at the farm was truly amazing to be able to experience. The curriculum in those settings was the highest level of modeling that I could’ve experienced. To be able to come back to Lori Mann Carey and relay the Freedom School way to scholars truly made an impact”
– Jackie McAlister

“Exploring and talking about our history and fight for education and the right to read reminded me that as Black educators we have a responsibility to make sure our black and brown children receive every ounce of that education and support however it needs to look! At National Training, I was reminded that I was a part of a much larger team, and that there are people with the same heart as me doing this work.”
– Kira Hogan



“This summer taught me that education isn’t just about teaching lessons; it’s about helping scholars feel seen, heard, and valued. That’s something I’ll take with me wherever I work because those relationships are what make the biggest difference.”
– Jeri Blanden

“...made me want to continue education when I look back and see what I have done and how I was able to impact the children in such a short time watching how they became so engaged made me hungry to do more.” – Lisa Lawrence

Staff Impact: Training and program



A Glimpse into a Day at Freedom Schools

Overarching Theme: I Can Make A Difference!



Harambee

- Cultural Roots
- Daily Celebration
- Components



Integrated Reading Curriculum

- Culturally Relevant & Standards-Based
- Critical & Creative Thinking
- Cooperative Group Activities



Afternoon Activities

- D.E.A.R. Time
- Cultural & Thematic Enrichment
- Field Trips



Student Impact



"Making new friends.

I've made friendships with people I didn't know before. The right people are here and they knew that it would be good for me to be here."

– Hayden

"One favorite memory is

Drum Power. *It's interesting to know what happened before I was here in the world. My teacher told us how our ancestors used music and drums to express themselves and to communicate."*

– Fabiana

"The History of We was an inspiring book because I like to see the history and learn about our ancestors.

It made me feel curious and excited so I decided to write a poem about everything that we can do.

And I want my teachers to know that I am amazing and I can do anything that I put my mind to."

– Jayanna



"I learned that being a leader cannot just help me, but it also helps other people and my community be better."

– Eden



Family Partnerships



A key component of CDF is family stability and economic mobility: In Freedom schools, this looks like intentional family engagement and outreach

This summer we held three family dinners

- Families got to experience modified Harambee
- Collaborated with Kipp, Rooted, Madison Reading Project, and several other community partners



National Day of Social Action (NDSA)



The National Day of Social Action reinforces that **student mental health is a shared community responsibility**.

Students are not only supported academically but are also empowered as leaders, advocates, and changemakers—demonstrating the impact of strong school-community partnerships in advancing student well-being.



Insight into Some Community Connections

Renee Moe

CEO, United Way

- Wished she could start every day reading to 3rd-5th graders!
- Advocated for believing in every child's ability to succeed.

Keena Atkinson

Owner, Rujee Well

- Praised staff: "The team at this program is so dope!!"
- Grateful to offer expertise in self-awareness.

Corinda Rainey-Moore

Community Leader

- Served as the first guest reader at Lori Mann Carey School.
- Noted that students were highly engaged.



Rooted

Badger Rock Farm Team

- Introduced kids to gardening, berry picking, and chickens.
- Partnered with community chefs and guest artists.



2026 Freedom Schools by the Numbers

75 scholars
(rising 4th–6th)
participated in
Freedom School.

**17 elementary
schools**



**6 different afternoon
activities offered**



**Friday field trips/on
site experiences**

**3 Community
Dinners** Partnership
with Rooted

**27 Community
guest readers**
participated in Harambee



What's Next

- **Quality and Operations:** Continue to improve processes to ensure implementation with integrity and measure impact
- **Strategic Expansion:** Identify future sites for continued expansion
- **Community Engagement and awareness:** Expand local outreach to build deep stakeholder collaboration and active participation.
- **Financial Sustainability:** Build philanthropic partnerships to support community connection and expansion



Hopes and Dreams

“My hope is that Freedom Schools continues to grow throughout MMSD and reaches more educators at every level. The experience offers a lens that no article, book, or training alone can provide—you have to be in the space with scholars to truly understand its impact.”

– Jackie McAlister



“My dream for freedom schools here in Madison is that we have many of them open for every age, at every level, with more professional staff OF COLOR, so more children of color have the opportunity to experience education in this way!

– Kira Hogan

“Freedom school is where you can learn. I want to see young minds grow and I want the scholars that are here now be teachers here in the future.”

– Amon (Rising Fifth Grade Scholar)



“I hope that Freedom Schools helps even more scholars be kind to each other.”

– Harmony T. (Rising Fourth Grade Scholar)

“My hope for the future of Freedom School in MMSD is that it continues to grow so more scholars have the opportunity to experience it. I hope every child who walks through the doors leaves feeling more confident, more excited about learning, and knowing they have people who believe in them.

– Jeri Blanden





2026–27 **DRAFT** Instruction Work Group Scope

Month	Topic
August	MMSD: Excellence Together Step Back Retreat
September	Launching the 26–27 school year • MMSD: Excellence Together • School Improvement Plan Foci
October	Focus Area # 4 Culture of Connectedness and well- being Strategy # 4.1 Strengthening school culture
November	Focus Area # 5 Family Community and Industry partnerships Strategy #5.1 Family Experience Class Size Report Memo
December	Focus Area #1 Future ready student experience Strategy #s1.2 Math
January	No Meeting Proposed



2026–27 **DRAFT** Instruction Work Group Scope

Month	Topic
January	Special Public Forum for Building for the Future (date TBD)
February	MMSD: Excellence Together Step Back Retreat (date TBD)
February	Focus Area # 2 Organizational Alignment and Innovation Strategy #s 2.1 Enrollment Strategy and Instructional Design
March	Update on Technology Plan Class Size Report
April	Focus Area # 1 Future Ready Student Experiences Update on Special Education/plan
May	Focus Area # Culture of Connectedness and Well-being Strategy #s4.2 Mental Health staff and students Final Review of Technology Plan
	



Thank You