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PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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**NEWS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, April 20, 2018

## **MPS AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS PREPARE FOR TALENT SHOW**

12th annual student showcase set for April 25

Milwaukee Public Schools' after-school programs will host a student talent showcase called Turn on the Talent on Wednesday, April 25 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium of Audubon Technology and Communication High School, 3300 S. 39th Street. Nine student groups will perform for their peers, teachers, parents, and community leaders. The acts will include cultural dances, poetry, and vocal performances. Turn on the Talent will be open to the public and media representatives are also encouraged to attend.



Inspired by popular television programs like *American Idol* and *America's Got Talent*, Turn on the Talent will allow audience members to vote for their favorite performances. Following the event, the general public will be invited to watch the performances at [MilwaukeeRecreation.net](http://MilwaukeeRecreation.net) and cast their votes online before midnight on May 13.

Each year a SOAR Award (Supporting Opportunities for Afterschool Resources) is presented to an individual or organization at the event. This year the award will be presented to the YMCA SWIMS program and its Senior Aquatics Director, Jacob Byrne, for the partnership and opportunity their program provides to hundreds of students in Community Learning Centers, Child Care Camps, and Summer Recreation Enrichment Camps. Past recipients include Milwaukee Bucks player Jabari Parker, Milwaukee Public Theatre, America Scores Milwaukee, H2O Milwaukee Music, Walkers Point Center of the Arts, and Victory Garden Initiative.

Milwaukee's Turn on the Talent event is part of a nationwide effort to highlight the importance of quality after-school programs. According to the Afterschool Alliance, 22% (205,209) of Wisconsin K-12 youth are responsible for taking care of themselves after school. For thousands of Milwaukee children, after-school programs represent a safe place to go for homework help, enrichment activities, healthy snacks, and positive social interaction. The Milwaukee Public Schools' after-school programs serve more than 25,000 students each year at over 100 locations. These programs prepare youth to succeed in the classroom and become productive members of tomorrow's work force.

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