



Contact:

Stephanie Cavazos; stephanie.cavazos@msichicago.org; (773) 947-3133
Julie Parente; julie.parente@msichicago.org; (773) 753-6249

MUSEUM OF SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY PROVIDES CPS STUDENTS WHO ATTEND FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL TICKETS TO VISIT FREE WITH FAMILY

MSI has provided more than 4.5 million family passes to CPS since 2006

CHICAGO (August 28, 2019) – For the 13th consecutive year, all K-12 Chicago Public Schools (CPS) students who attend the first day of school will receive a free family pass to the Museum of Science and Industry, Chicago (MSI) as part of the Museum’s vision to help youth realize their full potential in science, technology, engineering and medicine.

Incentivizing first-day attendance – a critical element in establishing a pattern for the rest of the school year – is one small part of how MSI supports CPS and broader educational initiatives through the Museum’s Welcome to Science Initiative. This umbrella offers administrators, teachers, youth leaders and students access to free programs created to remove barriers to quality science education, including teaching professional development courses, after-school science clubs, college readiness programs and more. The Museum expects that its 2019-2020 school year programs will be utilized by CPS at the same rate or greater as the 2018-2019 school year which saw:

- **337 CPS teachers, 31 administrators and 93 schools** through [teacher professional development courses](#), the [Science Leadership Initiative](#) program and the [after-school science clubs](#).
- **55 CPS schools, 45 administrators and thousands of students** in learning science during out-of-school-time during the [after-school science clubs](#), [Science Minors and Science Achievers](#) program and the Fab Youth program.
- **97 CPS schools and 100 teachers** in introducing children to diverse STEM professionals through [Jr. Science and Art Cafés](#), [Learning Labs](#), [Live from the Heart](#), [Black Creativity Innovation Studio](#) and [Black Creativity Juried Art Exhibition](#).

“Providing access to science learning is critical, and we place a priority on serving schools and neighborhoods with predominantly low-income students and youth who are underrepresented in STEM fields,” said Rex Babiera, MSI’s Deputy Director of Teaching and Learning. “Our longstanding partnership with Chicago Public Schools allows us to achieve this promise through directly improving the quality of science teaching in schools, connecting science to children wherever they are and showcasing diversity in STEM fields through our programs.”

With free Museum Entry, families can explore 14 acres of hands-on science inside exhibits including:

- [YOU! The Experience](#): Celebrate the body, mind and spirit through hands-on experiences. Walk through the Laugh Garden to see the contagious effects of

- smiling and happiness, go for a jog on a human-sized hamster wheel, and see your heart beat in time with a 13-foot-tall digital Giant Heart.
- [Science Storms](#): Investigate the science behind nature's power and control the dynamics of a 40-foot tornado, trigger an avalanche, unleash a tsunami and try more than 50 amazing experiments.
 - [Numbers In Nature: A Mirror Maze](#): Learn about the mathematical patterns found in nature, art, the human body and more inside this 1,800-square-foot mirror maze, a dizzying and mesmerizing array of repeating reflections.

Learn more about The Welcome to Science Initiative and the Museum of Science and Industry's dedication to providing quality science education at msichicago.org/welcometoscience.

About the CPS Ticket Voucher

Each voucher is valid for up to three (3) adult or child Museum Entry tickets to MSI between Sept. 3, 2019 and June 30, 2020. Tickets will be included in the information packets all CPS students receive on the first day of school, and tickets are distributed by each CPS school. Ticket vouchers must be redeemed on site, and cannot be redeemed through the Museum's online ticketing system, call center or ticket kiosks. The original voucher must be presented at the time of the purchase. The voucher only applies to Museum Entry and additional tickets need to be purchased for *Wired to Wear*[™], Makers United, the *U-505 On-board Tour*, *Coal Mine*, *WOW! Tour* or *Giant Dome Theater* films.

About The Welcome to Science Initiative

The Welcome to Science Initiative helps children achieve their full potential in science by creating learning experiences inside and outside the classroom, and removing barriers that exclude them from participating. Our unique youth-centered approach supports students and everyone involved their success—families, educators, schools and communities. Program strategies focus on improving the quality of science teaching in schools; connecting science to children wherever they are; and showcasing diversity in STEM fields. We place a priority on serving schools and neighborhoods with predominantly low-income student populations.

About MSI

The Museum of Science and Industry, Chicago (MSI), one of the largest science museums in the world, offers world-class and uniquely interactive experiences that inspire inventive genius and foster curiosity. From groundbreaking and award-winning exhibits that can't be found anywhere else, to hands-on opportunities that make you the scientist—a visit to MSI is where fun and learning mix. Through its Welcome to Science Initiative, the Museum offers a variety of student, teacher and family programs that make a difference in communities and contribute to MSI's larger vision: to inspire and motivate children to achieve their full potential in science, technology, medicine and engineering. Come visit and find your inspiration! MSI is open 9:30–4 p.m. every day except Thanksgiving and Christmas Day. Extended hours, until 5:30 p.m., are offered during peak periods. The Museum is grateful for the support of its donors and guests, who make its work possible. MSI is also supported in part by the people of Chicago through the Chicago Park District. For more information, visit msichicago.org or call (773) 684-1414.

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