



Superintendent's Report

*Presented by:
Superintendent Mincy
September 27, 2021*





“Education’s purpose is to replace an empty mind with an open one.”

Malcolm S. Forbes



Teaching & Learning

Principals' Academy for Leadership Success (PALs)

- The Principals, Asups, Directors, and I have a monthly meeting to focus on instruction and operational tasks to move The Village forward.
- During our last meeting, we took an in-depth look at middle school mathematics instruction. The curriculum that we are currently using is Navigator from Achievement First. Navigator coaches conduct monthly site visits to provide professional development to our teachers and school leaders. Last week, we had the pleasure of viewing a recording of Ms. Rodriguez's 5th grade class from our STEAM Academy. The purpose was to norm expectations and discuss quality teaching and learning. We were pleased with what we saw and would like to thank **Ms. Rodriguez** for the work that she is doing! Continue to stretch and grow as a professional.





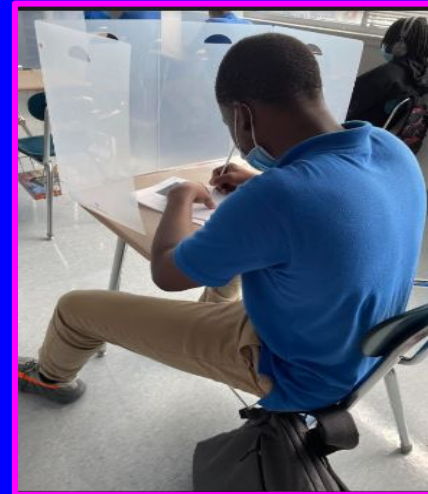
Teaching & Learning – Quality Instruction

Focusing on Instruction (Informal Observations):

- Instructional Rounds - This week the central office team and I are starting campus site visits to see what is happening in classrooms on the ground level. This will also allow us the opportunity to set consistent norms and expectations for what good teaching and learning should look like across The Village.

● Observation Process (Formal Observations):

- All staff members will be evaluated in accordance with the AchieveNJ Law
- We are using the Danielson Framework for all teachers
- Teacher ratings will be based upon 85% teacher practice and 15% Student Growth Outcomes (SGOs) that were developed in teachers' Individual PD Plans.





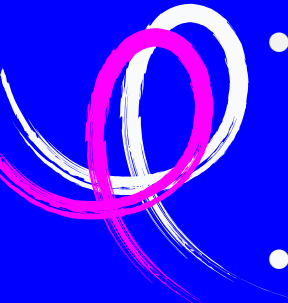
Teaching & Learning - Assessment & PD

Diagnostic Testing Underway

- MAP NWEA - In Progress - Testing Window 9/24 - 10/1
- NJ Start Strong Assessment - Testing Window 10/4 - 10/12
 - Testing in grades 4-11; Based upon pre-requisite skills
- Literably - New program to assess independent and instructional reading levels (K-8)

Professional Learning for Staff

- Transition to Danielson 2013 Framework - Administrator and teacher leader cohorts will be trained by The Danielson Group on Oct 19th and 20th
- Rutgers Graduate School of Education - Leading the workshops below:
 - NJSLS-Science and Math Best Practices - Grades K-8
 - Writer's Workshop - Grades K-8
 - Guided Reading - Grades K-4
- Safe Schools Training - K-12 Compliance Training

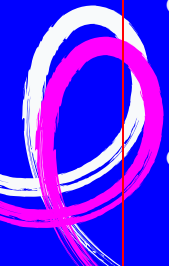




Instructional Technology



- LinkIt Platform (all students)
 - Data Warehousing System - Serves as a platform to store student achievement, attendance, climate and culture, and discipline data. The system provides the ability to analyze data trends for individual students, classes, and grade-levels.
 - Online Testing Software - Test administration and instant access to results
- Supporting Pre-K Instruction
 - **New** Smart Media Interactive Tables - Multi-touch interactive table for all of our Pre-K classrooms at PAC
 - Samsung Galaxy Tablets to support our implementation of Tools of the Mind and Teaching Strategies Gold
- Updated to a 10 GB internet across The Village - This will better support our 1:1 chromebook initiative. To date, 85% of our updated chromebooks have been deployed to students.
- Brand new access points have been added at STEAM





Enrollment & Recruitment

We are launching a new Enrollment and Recruitment Strategy Team (ERST) to ensure that we hit our enrollment projections. Starting today and beyond the team will meet weekly to monitor data trends and plan community events (e.g. visits, fairs, and open houses). Pending approval this evening, we are also onboarding a new Manager of Community Relations and Enrollment (Ms. Dana Murray) to support the work.

As a district we currently participate in the Newark Enrolls System

- Application window: November 13th to February 11th
- Match letters released on April 18th

Targeted Grade Levels include:

- Prek-3 - 45 seats
- Kindergarten - 100 seats
- 9th Grade - 150 students
- Bolstering enrollment in other grade-levels if are not at max capacity



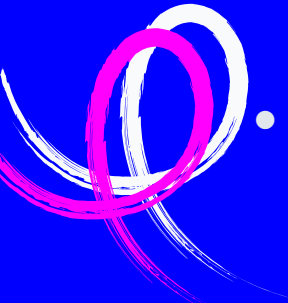


Charter Renewal

- Although this is not our charter renewal year, it is a top priority for the district and we do not take the process lightly. We are being proactive to ensure that we meet and/or exceed all of our obligations, as outlined by the state. We are in the process of launching an internal team to familiarize ourselves with the process. Our task is to be self-reflective about our strengths and deficiencies, as we develop a clear roadmap to guide our work moving forward.

New Jersey Public Charter School Association:

- Hosting a webinar on October 5th from 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm. The focus is on educating board members on the charter renewal process. The invite to register was shared via email previously. Several members of our team will be in attendance.
- They also shared documents of exemplars of successful charter renewals to support schools who are going through the process.





Operations and Systems - Staffing

Staffing Updates:

- Great news! We have added a new Director of HR/Talent Acquisition and Compliance, Ms. Stacey Wilkerson. She is joining us from the Newark Public Schools!
- Although we still have vacancies, we have filled 62 positions to date.
- We have also made scheduling adjustments to minimize the number of substitute teachers that our children would have before them.
- We expanded our reach by posting in the Sunday Star-Ledger yesterday.

While aggressive, we still have much to do to fill our remaining vacancies. We are eager to fill them, but being patient to ensure that our children have quality staff before them. At this time, we are still in the process of securing the following:

Central Office:

- Director of Facilities
- Director of Mathematics
- HR Generalist

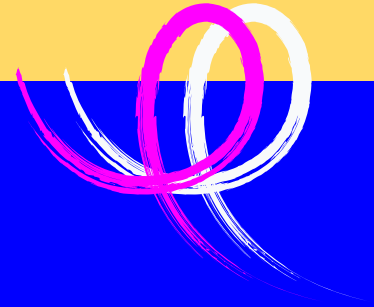
Building-Based Positions:

- Principal for the PAC Campus
- We are also struggling with hard to staff areas: nurses, middle school science, and elementary math.





COVID-19 Updates

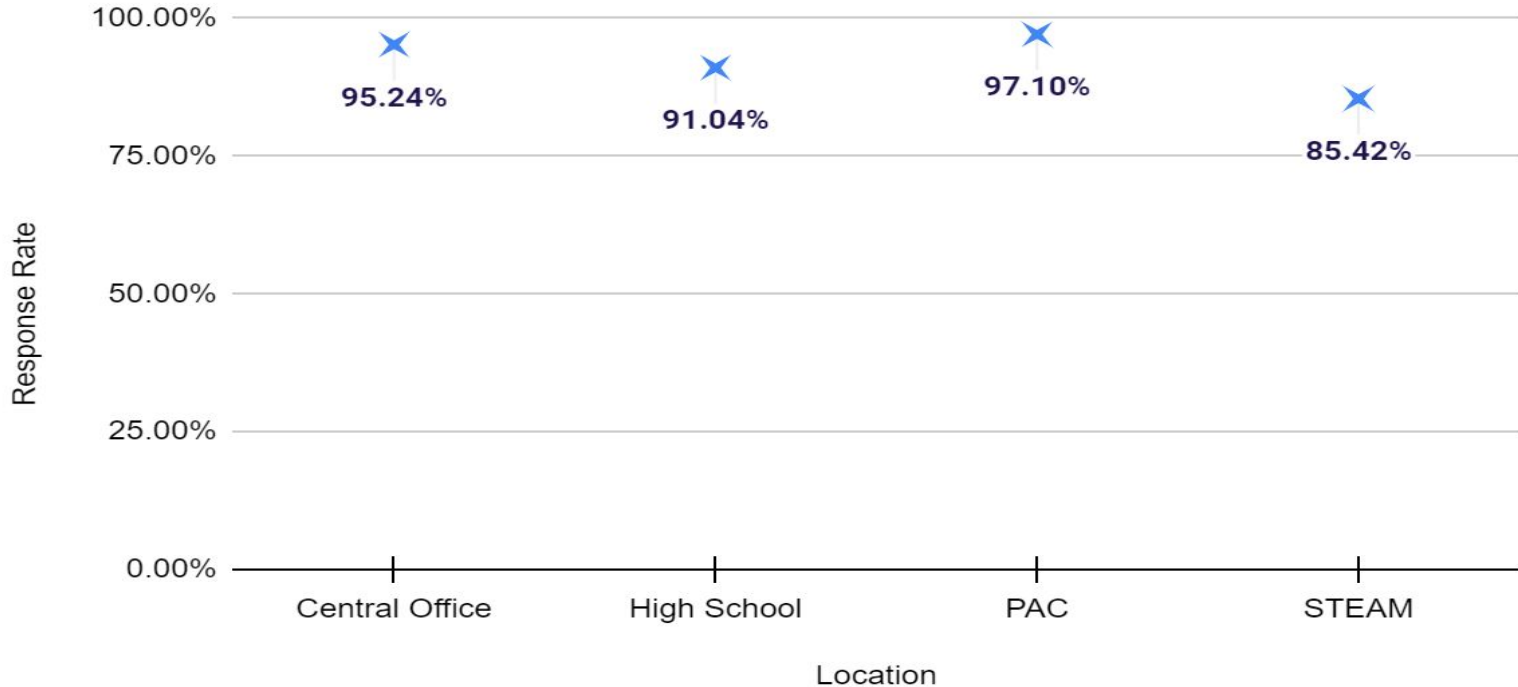


- To date, we have had 5 student cases and 0 staff cases across The Village. We are pleased to announce that we have been transparent and timely in our communication to families and staff (e.g. close contacts).
- Only 2 of the 3 campuses have been affected.
- We have been in very close contact with the Newark Department of Health to help guide us after each case. They are very thorough in their contact tracing and supportive to the school.
- To further minimize risks, we've made scheduling adaptations to reduce contact amongst grade levels.
- Vaccination Status of Staff:
 - In alignment with Governor Murphy's October 18th vaccination mandate, we have required all unvaccinated staff to receive weekly COVID-19 testing each Thursday at MPTCS the High School.



COVID-19 Updates - Staff Vaccination Survey

Vaccination Survey Response Rate





COVID-19 Updates - Staff Vaccination Status

MPTCS District Vaccination Status

Did Not Respond

7.8%

On Leave - Unknown

3.4%

Denying Vaccine

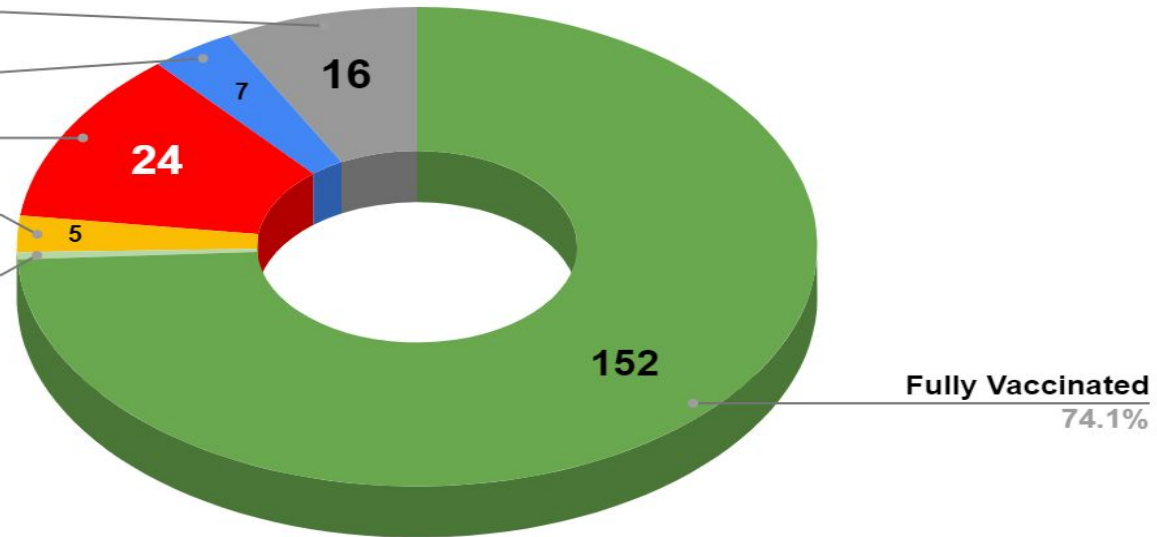
11.7%

Will Schedule Appt.

2.4%

Received 1st Dose

0.5%



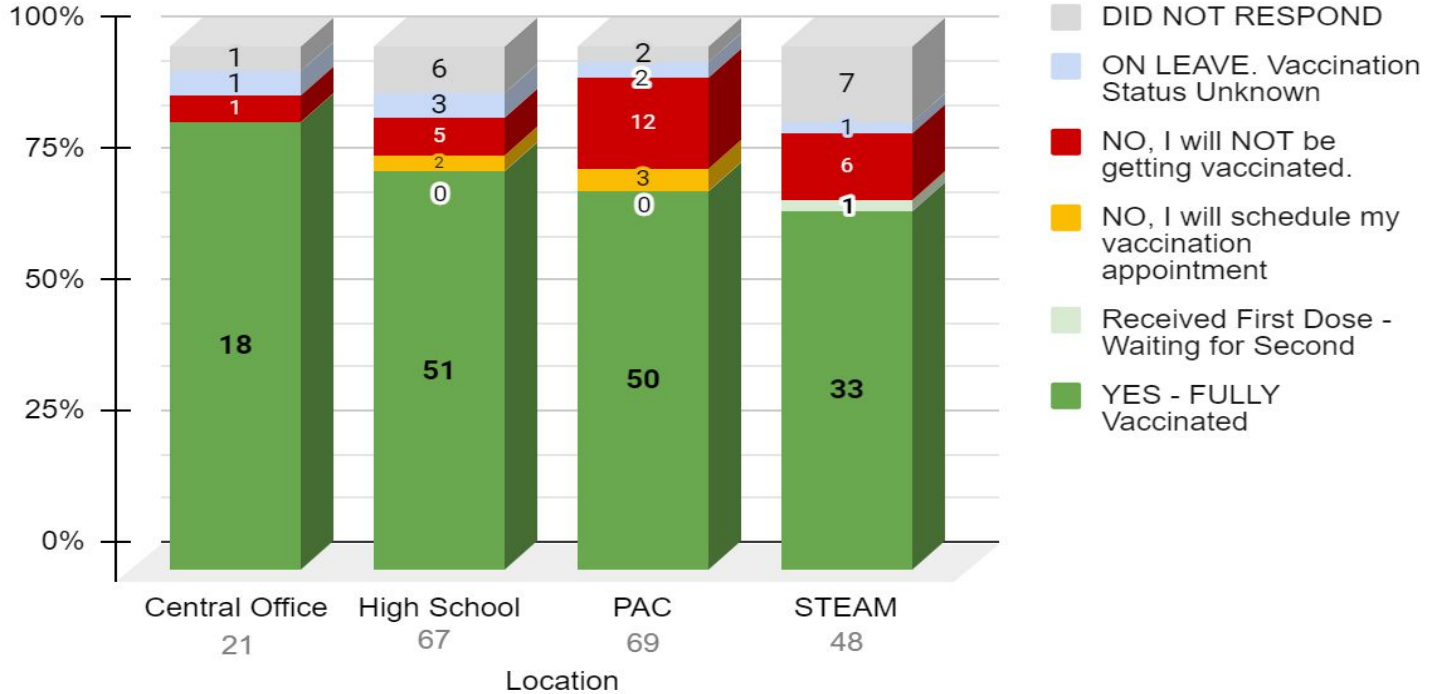
Fully Vaccinated

74.1%



COVID-19 (Staff Vaccinations by Location)

Vaccination Status by Campus (9/24/21)





Climate & Culture

Village Highlights!





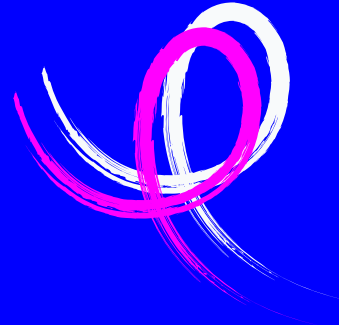
MPTCS Receives \$10,000 Grant

Marion P. Thomas Charter School has been selected to receive a 2021 Sustainable Jersey Grant funded by the PSE&G Foundation in amount of \$10,000.00. The funding will support our school's efforts, including:

- Replacement of the GREENHOUSE at the high school, which destroyed last year during a winter storm
- Maintenance and supplies for the Greenhouse and garden
- Implementation of the "Garden to Table" Initiative
- Involvement of our elementary school scholars (includes busing to the high school)

Jersey for Schools strives to connect participating schools and districts with financial and technical resources to successfully complete actions and make progress towards a sustainable future.

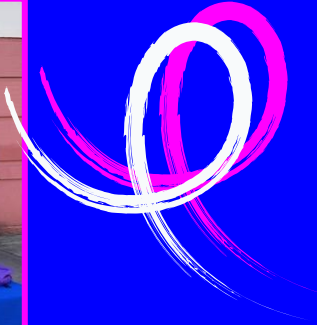
(NOTE: Grant recipients will be publicly announced during a virtual grant announcement event. We have been asked not to publicly announce this grant until after the event).





Donations from Alpha Phi Alpha & Franciscan Charities

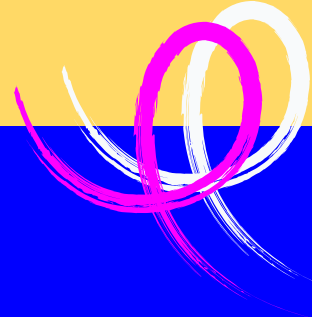
The brothers of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity (Alpha Alpha Lambda Chapter) donated backpacks and school supplies to a select number of our PAC Scholars. Additionally, Dr. Sharnee Brown, Newark's Chief Education Officer, and At-Large Councilman Larry Crump (also a member of Alpha Phi Alpha) stopped by to help us kick off the school year.



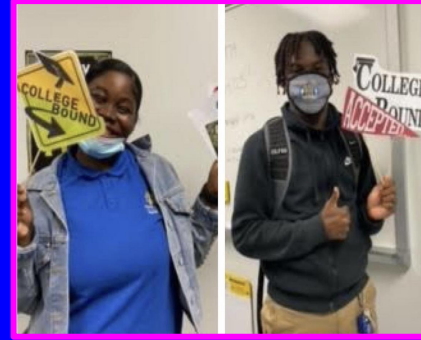
The brothers of the organization were excited to see Zaa'khir Witherspoon, who placed 3rd in the Martin Luther King, Jr. Oratorical Contest last winter. Thank you to Mrs. Solange Davis, Office Manager, for coordinating the event and Board Chair Rouse & Vice Chair Carter for their support!



High School Highlights



- The guidance team (Ms. Sawaged & Ms. Murray-Mitchell) scheduled several college events such as Information Sessions and Instant Decision Days, for our seniors to participate in. The following colleges were represented: Rider University, Saint Elizabeth University, Felician University, Nova Southeastern University, Stevens Institute of Technology, Georgian Court University, Monmouth University, NJIT, Kean University, Caldwell University, Montclair State University.
- On September 22nd, we hosted our Club Fair where each club advisor had a table set up to share information about their after school club and students were able to sign-up, based on their interests.
- On September 29th there will be a Community Clean-Up after school so our students can learn to take care of our community and keep the neighborhood clean.

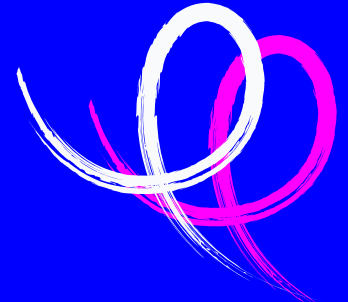




Financial Literacy & Street Law

MPTCS Financial Literary Scholars will participate in the New Jersey City University Student Investment Management Club led by Professor Rick Mayell. Scholars will listen in on lectures with college students on topics such as stocks, bonds, trades, and steps to establishing generational wealth. This will occur virtually, one hour each week.

Street Law: Legal Life Skills Program sponsored by the Verizon Foundation. Scholars will participate during advisory class periods. Scholars will be partnered with Street Law assigned advisors. These advisors are all qualified through experience and education to speak on topics such as Rights & Responsibilities in the workplace, introduction to credit, banking basics, traffic stops, Introduction to Criminal Law, and Restorative Justice.





Grandparents Day at the High School

MPTCHS Celebrates Grandparents

Mr. Nixon, the high school Family & Community Engagement Specialist, planned an amazing Grandparents Day celebration. The event featured student performances; on site agency support offering support and information for SNAP, Medicaid and Medicare benefits, as well as gift baskets, and great food. There were approximately 30-40 grandparents in attendance.





Hispanic & Latinx Heritage Month



September 15 - October 15

Paul Alberti
HIGH SCHOOL SPANISH TEACHER

When I think of Latinx Heritage Month, I am immediately brought back to my childhood. Throughout my middle school years, I realized that I was different from my peers. I realized that my peers did not have grandparents who spoke Spanish, were not familiar with the smells of pernil or morcilla, and did not know what it felt like to be stuck between two cultures: mixed Latinx and white American. The feelings of difference manifested into resentment, confusion and guilt. I had often felt compelled to conceal my heritage from others. When I look back on my middle school self as an adult, I realize that I was wrong and misled. I realize that I should have never been taught to be ashamed of who I was and who I have grown to be.

As a Spanish teacher at MPTCS, my goal is to inspire my students to fall in love with the rich cultures of Latin America, decolonize the eurocentric perspective on Spanish language studies, and embrace the unknown. To me, Latinx Heritage Month is a time to commemorate, honor, and homenajear the cultures, the languages, and the lives of ALL Latinx-identifying peoples. It is a time to reflect on and learn from the harrowed history of our country. It is a time to inspire today's youth to fall in love with their unique, brilliant, and authentic selves. It is a time to celebrate intersectionality, and all Latinx bodies!

www.mptcs.org

Celebrating our Diversity: MPTCS spotlights our Hispanic and Latinx Villagers

We are celebrating Hispanic/Latinx Heritage Month through October 15th. In addition to events that will take place at each school, we are spotlighting Hispanic/Latinx staff and families on our website and social media pages.

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THANK

YOU!!!

I now present to you
Principal Finn-Bruce from
our STEAM Campus!

