



MPTCS PARENT UNIVERSITY

DECEMBER 2023

The Johnson, Phillips & Edwards families enjoying our 1st Annual Family Skate Night

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Ana Munoz
STEAM Academy
Family & Community Engagement Specialist

*Happy
Holidays*

On behalf of the FACE specialists, we want to thank ALL our families who are a part of our *Village* and have participated in different workshops and events that we have presented during the first marking period. We recognize the essential role that families play in the educational success of our students and your participation over the past few months has made a tremendous contribution to their growth and development.

We understand that participating in all family activities and events can be challenging, but we hope those of you who have not had a chance to join us, will make an effort in December. Last month, we hosted three workshops: a math workshop where parents and children learned new techniques for supporting learning at home; a *Fall in Love with Literacy* session featuring insights into our reading platforms Excite Reading and Learning Ally. Families also had an opportunity to meet the author, Virtuous Cornwall, received a complimentary book; were informed of the Newark Public Library's programs and card application process, and received information about the launch of our upcoming reading challenge. Additionally, we hosted Community

STEM Night, an engaging evening of science, technology, engineering, and math. Our education partners, Liberty Science Center, and Fraser Math Solutions conducted interactive workshops and activities.

As we anticipate our "December to Remember," we remain committed to finding ways to involve our families and promoting a strong connection between school and home. Keep an eye out for upcoming virtual Math Workshops, the enchanting Winter performances, parent meetings, and much more!

We also want to congratulate Mrs. Arce from STEAM, who was the winner of our monthly parent drawing, she received a \$250.00 gift card for her active participation in the October events. You too can win, every time you attend a parent event your name is entered into a monthly drawing. Winners are announced at our monthly board meetings.

Again, thank you parents and guardians for all you've done to support your children's learning and the village. Your role is more important than it has ever been. And nothing we do could be accomplished without your support.

Kind Regards,

Ana Munoz

Why we do what we do...

Mission

The mission of Marion P. Thomas Charter School is to build culturally rich, transformative educational spaces that cultivate successful, lifelong innovators who use their passions, character, and intellect to better themselves, the greater Newark community, and the world beyond.

Vision

MPTCS Parent University (MPU) is designed to help parents and guardians become full partners in their child(ren)'s education. MPU works with educational institutions, community agencies, and organizations to offer free courses, family events, and activities that will equip families with new or additional skills, knowledge, resources, and confidence. The goal of MPU is to increase parent involvement in our schools and empower parents to raise children who are successful in school, and in life.

YOUR PARTICIPATION, YOUR REWARDS

We want to recognize your commitment to your child's educational journey and honor your dedication with exciting incentives. Every parent event you attend qualifies you to receive an array of prizes and recognition.



Platinum Level

10 events or more

- Achievement plaque
- Recognition at our Village Awards Ceremony
- MPTCS Swag Bag (including T-shirt)
- Entry into monthly raffle prize drawings
- Entry into year-end GRAND PRIZE raffle drawing



Gold Level

7-9 events

- Certificate of Achievement
- Recognition at our Village Awards Ceremony
- MPTCS Swag Bag (including T-shirt)
- Entry into monthly raffle prize drawings



Silver Level

5-6 events

- Certificate of Achievement
- MPTCS T-shirt
- Entry into monthly raffle prize drawings



Bronze Level

3-4 events

- Certificate of Achievement
- Entry into monthly raffle prize drawings

Stay Informed

Each month our principals host a chat with parents. Please make every effort to join them to find out about the latest updates and events coming to your child's school. You'll also have an opportunity to ask questions and share your feedback.



**Principal Nickerson
PAC Academy**

***Cool Conversation
over Coffee & Cocoa
December 19th
(in-person 7:45-8:45 AM)***

To foster open communication and collaboration between families and school leadership, PAC's Principal, Ms. Nickerson, is excited to invite parents to join her for the Principal's Corner.

This meeting will provide you with a unique opportunity to engage with the principal, learn about upcoming events and initiatives, and most importantly, have your questions answered and voice your concerns and accolades.



**Principal Silvestre
STEAM Academy**

***Chit Chat with the
Principal
December 12th @ 9 AM
(via ZOOM)***

This informal session provides parents with an opportunity to connect, share updates, and engage in open conversations about the progress and development of the STEAM school community.

During the Chit Chat, Principal Silvestre will discuss key highlights, and address any questions or concerns you may have. Whether you are a seasoned member of STEAM Academy, or a new parent, your perspective and insights contribute significantly to our collective success.



**Principal Snipes
MPTC High School**

***Principal-Parent
Check-In
December 21st @ 6 PM
(via ZOOM)***

The Principal-Parent Check-In provides a structured opportunity for high school parents to engage directly with the principal, offering a dedicated space for meaningful conversations, inquiries and updates.

This regular interaction contributes to a more transparent and supportive educational climate and culture, ultimately enhancing the overall educational experience for both students and families.

Our 24-25
Enrollment
Application is
NOW OPEN!



APPLY
Today!

Grades PREK-12

The application is now open for
the 24-25 school year!
www.newarkcommonapp.org

If you would like to
become a parent
ambassador and share
your love for MPTCS
please reach out to the
FACE specialist at your
child's campus!



Current students do not
have to reapply! Refer a
friend or family member
today! Each referral comes
with a special MPTCS gift
for all families!

Events, Activities & Meetings



STEAM Parent & Family Advisory Council (PFAC) Meeting

Tuesday, December 5th @ 5 PM

All STEAM families are invited to this important meeting. The role of PFAC is to gather the views, feedback, and concerns of the wider parent body in order to advise the Parent Board Representative, Ms. Toni Ince. Ms. Ince will be responsible for sharing the news with the appropriate person(s), whether it is Superintendent Mincy or members of the Board of Trustees.



"No school can work well for children if parents and teachers do not act in partnership on behalf of the children's best interests."

Early Childhood Advisory Council ZOOM Meeting (PAC & STEAM PreK-3rd Grade Families)

Wednesday, December 6th @ 5 PM

Parents of PreK to 3rd grade scholars are invited to join us for an Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC) meeting. Learn more about our Early Childhood Education program and how you can become an advocate for our school and scholars.

As a parent, your voice matters. Please consider becoming a part of ECAC.



"At the end of the day, the most overwhelming key to a child's success is the positive involvement of parents."



PAC & STEAM 8th Grade Parent Meetings

**PAC - Wednesday, December 6th @ 5:30 PM (in person);
Thursday, December 7th @ 7 PM (via Zoom)**

STEAM - Thursday, December 7th @ 6 PM (in person)

PAC Academy 8th-grade parents are urged to attend one of the parent meetings. During the meeting, parents will learn more about upcoming events and activities solely for 8th grade students and their parents, including graduation and high school preparation.

Events, Activities & Meetings



Tips for Teaching Your Child Math at Home

**Thursday, December 7th @ 6 PM
via Zoom**

PAC & STEAM families please join us for a virtual math workshop, including:

- Parent Resources
- Dope Math Notebook Giveaway
- Spanish Translators Available



"I really learned so much at the last math workshop. The workshop leaders really know how to make math easy to understand." ~PAC Academy Parent

TIPS FOR TEACHING YOUR CHILD MATH AT HOME

PARENTS, DOES THE THOUGHT OF HELPING YOUR CHILD WITH MATH STRESS YOU?

Then Join Us for an Engaging Workshop Just for You!

Topics Covered

- How to promote a math mindset
- How to reinforce math lessons at home

**Thursday, December 7th
6:00 - 7:00 PM est**

VIRTUAL - ZOOM

Grades K-2: <https://shorturl.at/JSVY3>
Grades 3-5: <https://shorturl.at/ijOW3>
Grades 6-8: <https://shorturl.at/aivSU>

- Parent Resources
- Dope Math Notebook Giveaway
- Spanish Translators Available

FRASER'S MATHEMATICS SOLUTIONS



High School Family Paint & Sip

**Thursday, December 7th @ 5 PM
High School, 125 Sussex Ave., Newark
(in-person)**

High School parents and students are invited for a creative night of art! High school art teacher and visual artist, will guide participants as you make a work of art and sip on mocktails.

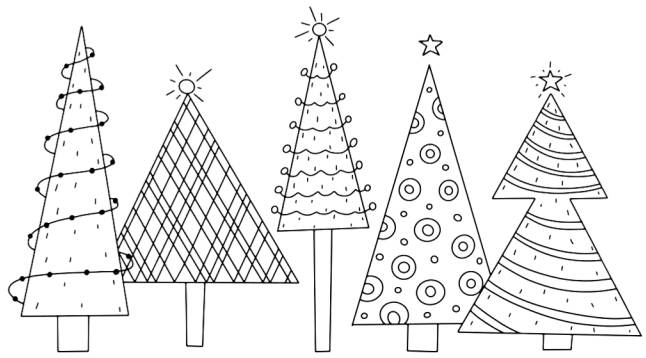
**English as a Second Language
Parent Meeting @ STEAM Academy
370 S. 7th St., Newark**

**Tuesday, December 12th @ 5 PM
(in-person)**

Parents of ESL Learners are invited to attend this important meeting to learn more about our ESL program, find out more about our Village and a variety of programs offered for both parents and students.



Events, Activities & Meetings



Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Virtual Workshop for PreK & K Parents

**Thursday, December 14th @ 5 PM
via Zoom**

Join us for our 2nd workshop focusing on social-emotional learning (SEL). During the session, we'll provide Insights on how we incorporate SEL Into our curriculum and the positive impact it has on your child's growth. Our preschool leaders will also discuss ways you can reinforce these concepts in your child's daily life.



Spirit Week is slated for December 18th to 22nd, your child can wear the following:

Monday - Candy Cane Day (dress in red & white)

Tuesday - Holiday Twin Day (siblings or two friends can dress alike in festive attire)

Wednesday - Holiday headwear (wear a holiday hat or headband)

Thursday - Flannel or Plaid Day (wear a flannel or plaid top)

Friday - Ugly Holiday Sweater (wear an ugly holiday sweater)

Winter Performances

STEAM Academy Winter Concert

Tuesday, December 19th @ 2 PM

STEAM Academy students, from PreK to 8th Grade, will showcase their talents during STEAM's Winter Concert. All parents are invited to come out to celebrate and applaud our young performers.



PAC Academy Winter Festival

Wednesday, December 20th @ 2 PM


PAC Parents are invited to join PAC Academy for their Winter Festival. Students will showcase their visual, performing and culinary arts talents. Please contact the PAC Academy FACE specialist at lpowell@mptcs.org to reserve your seat.

MPTC High School Winter Dance & Art show

**Thursday, December 21st
@ 6 PM**

On Friday, December 22nd, all students will be dismissed at 12:30 p.m. All schools will be closed from December 25th to January 1st. School will reopen on Tuesday, Jan. 2nd. We look forward to seeing everyone in 2024!





Whichever holiday
you celebrate, please
accept our best wishes
for a winter break
filled with warm
moments and special
memories. We hope you
are able to take time
to relax, recharge, and
connect with those you
cherish.