

Marion P. Thomas Charter School



# PARENT UNIVERSITY

FALL EDITION

OCTOBER 2024





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## Mrs. Angela Mincy Superintendent

Dear Village,

It's been a joy to see our classrooms filled with eager learners and to witness the vibrant energy that marks the beginning of another academic year. I hope your children have enjoyed the start of the new school year and are anticipating more new experiences and learning opportunities.

This year is especially significant as we celebrate our *25th anniversary*. For a quarter of a century, Marion P. Thomas Charter School has been dedicated to serving Newark and the surrounding communities, providing quality education, and nurturing the potential of every student. I believe that our greatest strength lies in our unity. When educators, students, families, and the entire school community work together towards common goals, there is no limit to what we can achieve. By fostering a spirit of collaboration, mutual respect, and shared responsibility, we can ensure that every student thrives.

We have many exciting plans for the year ahead, and I am confident that, with your support, we will make this school year a successful and memorable one. Thank you for entrusting us with your child's education. Let's make this 25th anniversary year a remarkable one filled with achievement, growth, and joy.

Wishing you and your family a wonderful school year ahead!

In gratitude and solidarity,

*Angela Mincy*

# Meet Our Curriculum & Instruction Team



**Mr. Christopher Abbaleo**

Assistant Superintendent

[cabbaleo@mptcs.org](mailto:cabbaleo@mptcs.org)



**Ms. Melissa McLain**

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Executive Director of Athletics & Community Relations

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Supervisor of Preschool

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**Ms. Chanelle Wolfe**

Director of Teaching, Learning, & Culture

[cwolfe@mptcs.org](mailto:cwolfe@mptcs.org)

# Meet Our School Leaders



**Ms. NaTasha Nickerson**

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PAC Academy

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**Ms. Fahara Hutchins**

Principal

Sankofa Academy

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**Ms. Leonor Costa**

PAC Vice Principal

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**Ms. Zhada Stamps-Moore**

Sankofa Manager of Culture & Initiatives

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**Ms. Shimeica Maxwell**

PAC Vice Principal

[smaxwell@mptcs.org](mailto:smaxwell@mptcs.org)

# Meet Our School Leaders



**Ms. Talia Snipes**

Principal

Marion P. Thomas Charter High School

[tsnipes@mptcs.org](mailto:tsnipes@mptcs.org)



**Mr. Erick Silvestre**

Principal

STEAM Academy

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**Mr. Gerardo Valenzuela**

HS Vice Principal

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# GET INVOLVED! YOUR PARTICIPATION, YOUR REWARDS

## EARN REWARDS

We recognize your commitment to your child's educational journey and want to honor your dedication with exciting incentives. Every parent event you attend that is marked with a double asterisk\*\* qualifies you to receive an array of prizes and recognition.

### ★ **PLATINUM LEVEL (10 sessions or more)**

- Achievement Plaque
- Recognition at our Parent Golden Village Awards Dinner
- MPTCS Swag Bag
- Entry into monthly raffle prize drawings
- Entry into year-end GRAND PRIZE raffle drawing

### ★ **GOLD LEVEL (7-9 sessions)**

- Certificate of Achievement
- Recognition at our Parent Golden Village Awards Dinner
- MPTCS Swag Bag
- Entry into monthly raffle prize drawings

### ★ **SILVER LEVEL (5-6 sessions)**

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

### ★ **BRONZE LEVEL (3-4 sessions)**

- Certificate of Achievement
- Entry into monthly prize raffle drawings



REWARDS  
PROGRAM

# Connect with Our Principals\*\*



## PAC Academy | Principal's Corner, Oct. 16

Join Principal Nickerson for her Principal's Corner and get the latest updates about all that is going on at PAC Academy. Details about her monthly meeting are shared via Class Dojo.



## Sankofa Academy | Chat & Chew with the Principal, Oct. 9 & 29

Schedule a time on Class Dojo to meet with Principal Hutchins between 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.



## STEAM Academy | Principal Chit Chat, Oct. 8

Principal Silvestre will update parents on STEAM activities and events during his Zoom Chit Chat with the Principal. The session will begin at 6 p.m. Zoom details will be shared via email, text and Class Dojo.

## High School | Principal Check-In, Oct. 17

Principal Snipes will host a Zoom Check-In with families. Parents are invited to ask questions and hear the latest updates regarding high school activities and programs. Zoom details will be sent via text and email.



*\*\*Earn reward points for attending these meetings.*



# Meet the Family Engagement Team

## **Michele Griffin**

**Managing Director, Community Relations**  
[mgriffin@mptcs.org](mailto:mgriffin@mptcs.org)

Ms. Griffin has been with the Marion P. Thomas Charter School Village for 15 years. She is dedicated to connecting families with resources that benefit both parents and students. Michele is also spearheading the Parent and Family Advisory Council, (PFAC). The council will include a representative from each campus, who will serve as advocates for parent issues, as well as give voice to accomplishments and concerns to the Superintendent and/or MPTCS Parent Board Representative.



**Ana Munoz**  
**STEAM Family & Community Engagement Specialist (FACE)**  
[amunoz@mptcs.org](mailto:amunoz@mptcs.org)

Ana Munoz has been an eSTEAMed member of the Marion P. Thomas Charter School Village for 22 years! Her primary goals are to increase parental involvement and build community partners that will aid in assisting families. Ms. Munoz realizes meeting the needs of families is critical to helping scholars reach academic success and bridging the gaps between home, school and community.

## **Lawana Powell**

**PAC Family & Community Engagement Specialist (FACE)**  
[lpowell@mptcs.org](mailto:lpowell@mptcs.org)

Lawana Powell, who has been part of the Marion P. Thomas Charter School Village for 3 years, is making a lasting imPACt with families and students at PAC Academy. She loves organizing events that bring families together, with a few favorites being Muffins with Moms and Dad Walk Your Child to School Day. Lawana is excited to continue working alongside families to enhance their children's educational journey.



# Meet the Family Engagement Team

## Zhada Stamps-Moore

Manager of Culture and Initiatives at Sankofa Academy

[zstamps@mptcs.org](mailto:zstamps@mptcs.org)

Zhada Stamps-Moore joined the Marion P. Thomas Charter School Village this school year. Ms. Stamps-Moore works closely with the climate and culture team to ensure scholars have a positive educational experience by fostering a school environment that promotes learning and excellence. She is also dedicated to creating engaging programming for parents at Sankofa and throughout the Village.



## Tips for a Positive School-Home Experience

**Stay Engaged with School Communication:** Regularly check emails, texts, and the school's website for updates and event notices.

**Create a Structured Home Routine:** Establish a consistent routine for homework, study time, and extracurricular activities. Include a dedicated space for studying that is free from distractions.

**Maintain Open Communication with Teachers:** Develop a positive relationship with your child's teachers by staying in touch throughout the school year. Don't wait for formal meetings—reach out when you have questions or updates about your child.

**Be an Active Participant:** Involve yourself in the school community by attending school events, the Principals monthly meetings, parent-teacher conferences, and volunteering. This shows your child the importance of education and community engagement while allowing you to build connections with other parents and school staff.

# Village-Wide Initiatives

**Respect WEEK**  
OCTOBER 7TH - OCTOBER 11TH  
School Counseling Department

**Monday, 10/7**  
**Can't take BACK your words Day**  
Wear your UNIFORM backwards to show the importance of speaking kindly to others.

**Tuesday 10/8**  
**Cultural RESPECT**  
Represent your culture by wearing the flag of your country.

**Wednesday 10/9**  
**Thankfull Wednesday**  
Let's show thankfulness to OUR SCHOOL TEAM, share a thank you note to a staff member.

**Thursday 10/10**  
**GET YOUR BLUE ON**  
ALL STAFF will wear blue to bring awareness to bullying!

**Friday 10/11**  
**FriYaY Shoutouts**  
Students shoutout a peer for showing a small act of kindness.

The purpose of Respect Week is to teach students how to respect others, our school, our community, and ourselves, as well as how to prevent harassment, intimidation, and bullying situations. Let's show our school spirit by participating each day this week!

## Week of Respect | Oct. 7-11

The purpose of Week of Respect is to promote kindness and inclusion in schools, and to prevent bullying, intimidation, and harassment. Each day your student has a special task to do:

- Monday, 10/7 - Can't take your words BACK day (students get to wear their uniforms backwards)
- Tuesday, 10/8 - Cultural Respect (represent your culture by wearing your home country's flag)
- Wednesday, 10/9 - Thankfull Wednesday (share a thank you note with a staff member or student)
- Thursday, 10/10 - Get Your Blue On (All staff will wear blue)
- Friday, 10/11 - FriYaY Shoutouts (Students shoutout their peers for acts of kindness)

## \*\*Title 1 Parent Meeting | Oct. 8 @ 7:00 PM.

Title I provides financial assistance to schools. All parents from all MPTCS schools are invited to participated in this **Zoom** meeting. Ms. Wolfe, the ESSA Coordinator, will explain the Title 1 program and how parents can become involved in their child's education. *\*\*Earn reward points for attending this meeting*

**Marion P. Thomas Charter School**

**Title I Parent Meeting**  
MARION P. THOMAS CHARTER SCHOOL

SCAN BELOW TO JOIN THE ZOOM SESSION

**Tuesday October 8, 2024**  
7:00-8:00 p.m.  
Click [here](#) for the Zoom Link

For More Information: MPTCS ESEA Coordinator: Mrs. Charnele Wolfe, [swolfe@mptcs.org](mailto:swolfe@mptcs.org)

## The Village Votes | Register to Vote by Oct. 15 & enter our raffle to win \$250!

My Village, My Voice, My Vote, our voting initiative is underway. We're asking all our families to register to vote for our upcoming Presidential election. You must register or confirm your registration by Oct. 15th, then complete this form to enter our \$250 gift card raffle. One gift card will be raffled at each campus. Please REGISTER TODAY! More info will be shared about our Get the Vote Out Raffle valued at \$500.00.

**THE VILLAGE VOTES**

REGISTER TO VOTE BY OCTOBER 15TH

MPTCS parents and family members who register before Oct. 15th, can enter to win a \$250 gift card. Scan the QR Code for more information.

The presidential election is **November 5th!** Take action now—register or confirm your voter registration status by the **October 15th** deadline and enter our raffle (<https://forms.gle/5gz5FBJWuHxzRnp8>) to win a \$250.00 gift card. REGISTER TODAY!

**MY VILLAGE**  
Voting is crucial for our entire Village because it directly impacts the future of our children, our schools, and our neighborhoods.

**MY VOICE**  
Your voice is crucial when it comes to making decisions that affect your child's future, your community's rights, and your future.

**MY VOTE**  
Voting allows you to express your views and interests, ensuring that those who represent you in government are aligned with your vision for a better society.

**REGISTER TODAY!**  
<https://voter.svcs.nj.gov/register>

ALREADY REGISTERED? CONFIRM YOUR REGISTRATION TODAY!  
<https://voter.svcs.nj.gov/registration-check>

# Village-Wide Initiatives

## Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month | Through Oct. 15

We're paying tribute to the generations of **Hispanic** Americans who have positively influenced and enriched our nation and society. Each of our schools will host a special assembly, bulletin boards are decorated with notable Latinos from around the world and students have been learning about the culture, traditions and achievements of Hispanic people.



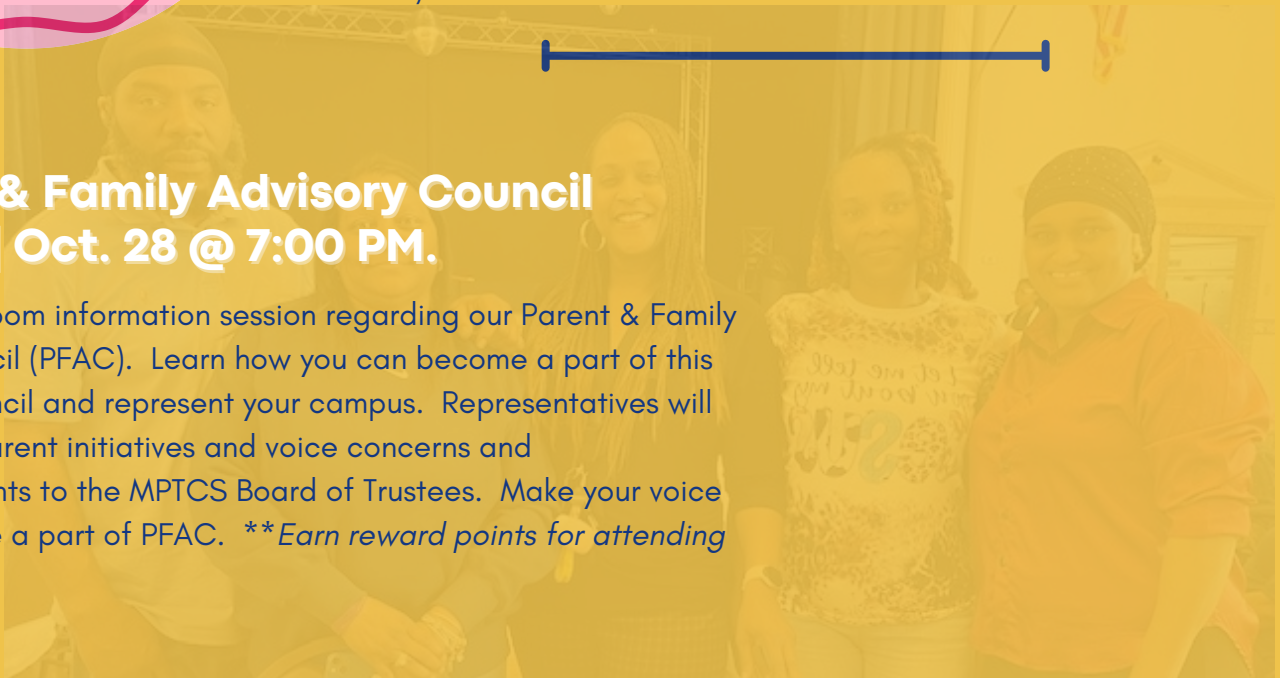
## Wear Pink Day | Breast Cancer Awareness, Oct. 18



All students will be allowed to wear pink on October 28th to acknowledge Breast Cancer Awareness Month and the many families impacted by this illness. **This dress-down day will also serve as a fundraiser, students who dress down will be asked to donate \$2.00.** Please note, students must still adhere to the dress-down policy (no ripped jeans or cropped tops, or sweats, please refer to the school handbook for details).

## \*\*Parent & Family Advisory Council Meeting | Oct. 28 @ 7:00 PM.

Join us for a Zoom information session regarding our Parent & Family Advisory Council (PFAC). Learn how you can become a part of this important council and represent your campus. Representatives will help to plan parent initiatives and voice concerns and accomplishments to the MPTCS Board of Trustees. Make your voice heard, become a part of PFAC. *\*\*Earn reward points for attending this meeting*





# PAC Academy

## Events & Activities

### Parent Engagement

| Event/Activity   | Details  | Date      |
|--|--|-----------|
| <b>Week of Respect</b>                                   | See Village-Wide Initiatives   | Oct. 7-11 |
| <b>National Voter Education Week</b>                     | <u>Register to Vote &amp; Enter the Voter Registration Raffle</u>  | Oct. 7-11 |
| <b>**Title 1 Parent Meeting</b>                          | Find out more about our Title 1 Program<br>(see Village Wide Initiatives)  | Oct. 8    |
| <b>LinkIt Testing</b>                                    | Parents, make sure your scholars get plenty of rest and eat a hearty breakfast on testing days                                   | Oct. 8-11 |
| <b>Quarter 1 Progress Reports</b>                        | Check the Parent Portal for your child's progress report   | Oct. 10   |
| <b>Schools Closed   National Indigenous People's Day</b> | All Schools Closed   | Oct. 14   |
| <b>**Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration</b>             | Celebrating Hispanic culture, traditions and achievements  | Oct. 17   |
| <b>Wear Pink Day</b>                                     | In honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, students may wear pink. This is a fundraiser, each child that wears pink must pay \$2 | Oct. 18   |
| <b>Trunk or Treat</b>                                    | PAC scholars will receive treats during our Trunk or Treat experience  | Oct. 31   |

For additional details see [PAC's monthly calendar](#). \*\*Earn reward points for attending these events.



# Sankofa Academy

## Events & Activities

### Parent Engagement

| Event/Activity                       | Details   | Date      |
|--------------------------------------|---|-----------|
| <b>Week of Respect</b>               | See Village-Wide Initiatives                                      | Oct. 7-11 |
| <b>National Voter Education Week</b> | <u>Register to Vote &amp; Enter the Voter Registration Raffle</u> | Oct. 7-11 |

|  |   |            |
|--|---|------------|
| <b>Quarter 1 Progress Reports</b>                        | Check the Parent Portal for your child's progress report                          | Oct. 10    |
| <b>Schools Closed   National Indigenous People's Day</b> | All Schools Closed  | Oct. 14    |
| <b>**Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration</b>             | Celebrating Hispanic culture, traditions and achievements<br>2:30 PM              | Oct. 15    |
| <b>Wear Pink Day &amp; Parade</b>                        | In honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, students may wear pink tops and jeans. | Oct. 18    |
| <b>Kindness Celebration</b>                              | Daily Activities will be shared via Class Dojo                                    | Oct. 21-25 |
| <b>Favorite Character Dress Up Day</b>                   | Scholars may dress up as their favorite character or wear their school uniform.   | Oct. 31    |

For additional details see [Sankofa's monthly calendar](#).

\*\*Earn reward points for attending these events.

## Parent Engagement

| Event/Activity   | Details  | Date      |
|--|--|-----------|
| <b>National Voter Education Week</b>                                     | <u>Register to Vote &amp; Enter the Voter Registration Raffle</u>                              | Oct. 7-11 |
| <b>LinkIt Testing</b>  | Parents, make sure your scholars get plenty of rest and eat a hearty breakfast on testing days | Oct. 8-11 |
| <b>Quarter 1 Progress Reports</b><br><b>**Hispanic Heritage Festival</b> | Check the Parent Portal for your child's progress report   Festival from 5-7 PM                | Oct. 10   |
| <b>Schools Closed   National Indigenous People's Day</b>                 | All Schools Closed   | Oct. 14   |
| <b>**PreK-4 Parent Meeting</b>   | Moving Up Info Session (in-person, 5 p.m.)   | Oct. 16   |
| <b>**8th Grade Parent Meeting</b>  | Moving Up Info Session (Zoom, 5 p.m.)  | Oct. 17   |
| <b>**Parent Portal Training</b>  | Learn how to access and navigate the MPTCS parent portal                                       | Oct. 21   |
| <b>**STEAM Parent Council Meeting</b>                                    | STEAM parents to discuss grows and glows (Zoom, 5 p.m.)  | Oct. 23   |
| <b>Trunk or Treat</b>  | STEAM students will be treated to a Trunk & Treat Experience                                   | Oct. 31   |

For additional details see [STEAM's monthly calendar](#). \*\*Earn reward points for attending these events.



# High School

## Events & Activities

### Parent Engagement

| Event/Activity   | Details  | Date      |
|--|--|-----------|
| <b>Week of Respect</b>                                   | See Village-Wide Initiatives   | Oct. 7-11 |
| <b>National Voter Education Week</b>                     | <u><a href="#">Register to Vote &amp; Enter the Voter Registration Raffle</a></u>  | Oct. 7-11 |
| <b>NJGPA Testing</b>                                     | Parents, make sure your scholars get plenty of rest and eat a hearty breakfast on testing days                                   | Oct. 8-11 |
| <b>Quarter 1 Progress Reports</b>                        | Check the Parent Portal for your child's progress report   | Oct. 10   |
| <b>Schools Closed   National Indigenous People's Day</b> | All Schools Closed   | Oct. 14   |
| <b>Principal Check-In</b>                                | Check-in with the Principal for the latest updates via Zoom, 6 p.m.  | Oct. 17   |
| <b>Wear Pink Day</b>                                     | In honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, students may wear pink. This is a fundraiser, each child that wears pink must pay \$2 | Oct. 18   |
| <b>PSAT SAT Testing</b>                                  | Parents, make sure your scholars get plenty of rest and eat a hearty breakfast on testing days                                   | Oct. 29   |

For additional details see the [High School's monthly calendar](#). \*\*Earn reward points for attending these events.



# Questions or Suggestions

Our parent events, workshops and initiatives are planned with you in mind. If you have a suggestion for a parent event or program, please forward an email or leave a message. We look forward to working with you to enhance your experience within our school community.

**Ms. Michele Griffin**

Parent University Coordinator

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