

Merry Everything

MARION P. THOMAS CHARTER SCHOOL

Superintendent's Report
December 16, 2024





Agenda

- Welcome & Mission
- Attendance
- Academics - PD & MPTCS in the News
- Initiatives & Recognitions
- On the Horizon
- Closing

Reimagining a Village



The MPTCS Mission

Reimagining Education - It takes a Village!



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.



The Tree of Knowledge



The Torch



The Sankofa



The Tiger

Attendance Data

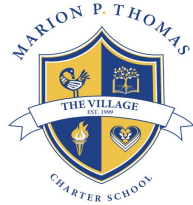


Performance & Operations



Attendance, Academics, & Attitude

Keep it 100%



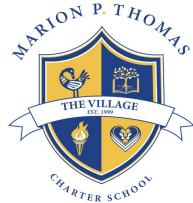
Strategic Plan Progress

Campus	Strategic Plan Goal	YTD (8/26-12/12)	+/-
HS	94.00%	92.11%	-1.89%
PAC	94.00%	93.03%	-0.97%
STEAM	96.00%	93.53%	-2.47%
SANKOFA	95.00%	93.14%	-1.86%



Attendance, Academics, & Attitude

Keep it 100%



CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM (YTD)

Campus	DECEMBER 2021	DECEMBER 2022	DECEMBER 2023	DECEMBER 2024
HS	47.60%	35.95%	29.10%	21.84%
PAC	60.58%	37.18%	30.10%	22.55%
STEAM	39.68%	28.69%	28.80%	22.76%
SANKOFA	N/A	N/A	N/A	19.05%
DISTRICT	48.95%	33.60%	29.30%	22.17%

Academic Updates



MPTCS in the News

Events/Community

Newark charter schools getting \$1M in grants to boost special education

By Steve Strunsky | NJ Advance Media for NJ.com

December 11, 2024 at 8:04 am EST

[Link to Article](#)



- KIPP NJ Newark Lab High School
- KIPP NJ Newark Collegiate Academy
- Marion P Thomas Charter High School
- Philip's Academy Charter School
- GOLCS Legacy Middle School
- GOLCS Heights Middle School
- GOLCS Downtown Middle School

Excerpt from the article:

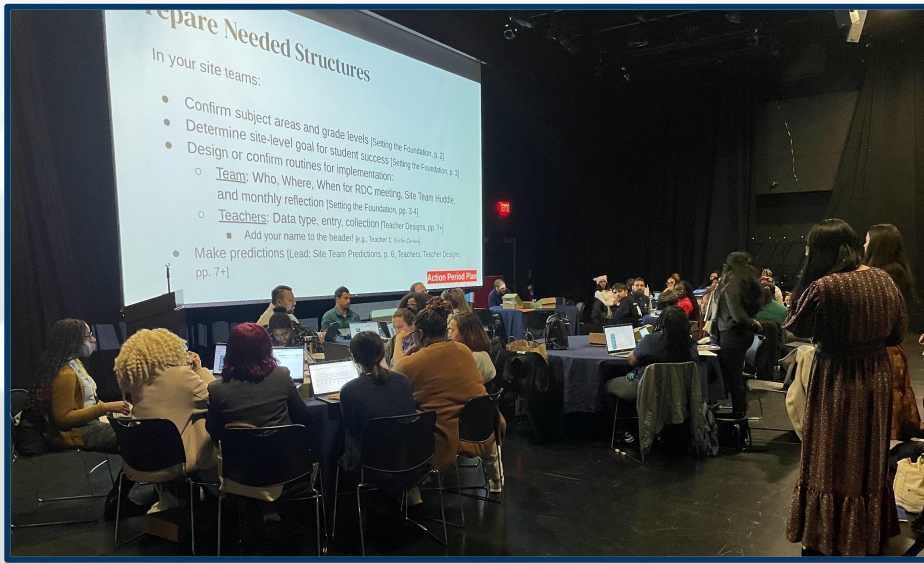
A common criticism of charter schools is that they don't attract or adequately serve students with learning disabilities who require special education teachers, aides, technology, or other costly accommodations. "While some charter schools have leveraged their autonomy to develop noteworthy programs for students with disabilities, these examples are exceptions rather than the rule," states a [July report](#) by the Center for Learner Equity, a Manhattan-based special ed advocacy group. "For students of color, multilingual learners, or those living in poverty who also have a disability, charter schools' struggles to educate students with disabilities threaten to compound the disadvantages that historically marginalized students already face."

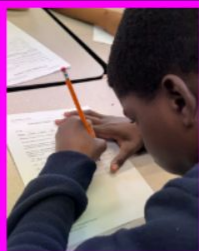
On Tuesday, the nonprofit [New Jersey Children's Foundation](#) announced that it had received a \$1 million grant from the [Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation](#) to support special education among Newark charter schools with just those kinds of student populations.

"Newark charter schools will be able to implement an evidence-based program design that we believe will lead to increased achievement for our students with disabilities thanks to this Gates Foundation grant," said Barbara Martinez, CEO of the Newark-based Children's Foundation. Under the grant program, recipient schools will receive \$100,000 each to implement strategies developed under a nationwide initiative known as the [IGNITE Network](#), which aims to improve outcomes among special education students from communities of color or low incomes.

Newark IGNITE Network Training Session Special Education Conference

*MPTCS hosted 40 participants
from the 7 participating schools
that were awarded a grant.*





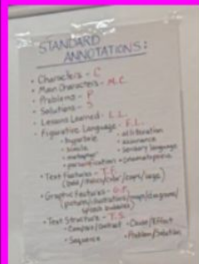
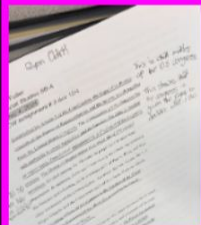
Small-group in Mr. Stevenson's classroom was smooth overall! Both team members got to work with their small-groups and independent students were fully engaged with their tasks! Additionally, all students had their headphones ensuring they were focused and working independently!!!! YES!

Mr. Custis targeted verbal feedback for his students was awesome to see! He knew exactly where his independent students needed support and provided feedback. Way to go!!!

Ms. Haruma's scholars were fully engaged in their Do Now, restating their question and working to apply their teacher's verbal feedback to answer all parts of the question! This amazing scholar continued revising his response according to the reminders his teachers gave!

This PAC transition was smooth, calm and urgent! All students were focused and responsive to their teacher's and leaders' feedback!

TEN-GRID modification! YES! Loved seeing the modification for this exit ticket that included the base-10 grid! Stevenson and Costa clearly worked together to make this data-driven adjustment! Evidence of Weekly data meeting here!!! Woo-hoo!!!



It was lovely to see Dr. Fuller grow in her preparation and Show-Call Quiyon's essay! Additionally, it was excellent to see that Quiyon had a great example of the critical need for scholars to include targeted margin notes as they read!








Mr. Robinson did not miss a beat! His students were highly engaged and excited to share their awesome illustrations in their EL workbook.

Mr. Robinson's signage around his room reflects his preparation and ownership of the EL curriculum! Students have multiple targeted tools to support their independent work! Excellent!

During the instructional walkthrough at PAC Academy K-8, Ms. Vargas provided valuable feedback highlighting key strengths observed in the classroom. She commended the use of small group instruction and independent work, noting that students were highly engaged and on-task. Ms. Vargas praised the teacher's effective feedback to students, which supported learning and skill development. She also emphasized the smooth transitions between activities and the successful use of exit tickets to gauge student understanding. Overall, she highlighted the high level of student engagement and the structured, productive learning environment.

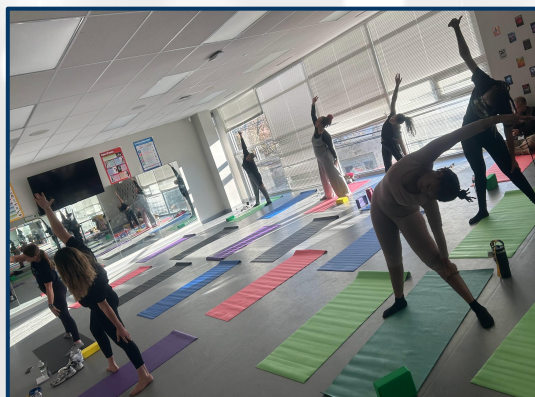
During the walkthrough, the team observed preschool classrooms. Teaching assistants effectively stepped in to ensure continuity in the absence of the teacher, maintaining a smooth flow of instruction. Teachers and TAs were observed working collaboratively, creating a supportive and cohesive classroom environment. The use of "turn and talk" strategies was used to foster engagement and peer interaction. There was consistent and effective use of curricular materials, aligning with developmental and instructional goals for preschool students.



			
<p>This amazing pre-school TA did not miss a beat! The lead teacher was not present yet this team member jumped right in, took the lead and engaged students in calendar and counting review strategies!!! WOW!</p>	<p>Mr. C and his partner operate their preschool classroom like a well oiled machine! The schedule is up and they are hitting their targets making for a highly engaging and predictable environment for their adorable scholars!</p>	<p>TURN & TALK in PRE-K!!! Oh yea!!! Scholars are already practicing their processing and verbal communication with peers! The bar is set with Pre-K!</p>	<p>Ms. Joseph's pride for her team was felt! She is clearly supporting her teachers at all times by giving precise coaching and support around the high bar she and Ms. Wynter-Darius have set! Ms. Joseph immediately implemented the suggestion to add a system for adding adult writing underneath student writing to accelerate their writing <i>and reading</i> development over time! WOW!!!</p>
			
<p>Ms. Wynter-Darius gave nonstop Shout-Outs to her team reflecting her constant support, coaching and high expectations! The result is clear- Pre-k is rocking it out!</p>	<p>Another awesome example of pre-k keeping strong routines AND being DATA-driven! This pre-k team gave each of their students precise letters of focus according to what they needed to practice! One scholar who didn't immediately get <i>his</i> letter said, "Hey! Where's my letter!?!?!" reflecting his desire to practice as well!</p>	<p>Pre-K supporting team members operate like lead teachers!!! WOW! This team member was using the curriculum application to record student practice! Students articulated what they learned and how they applied their skills for their session!</p>	

Village Vibes: Yoga Session led by our very own Ms. DiNardo!

Choice PD sessions began as a result of feedback that we received from one our anonymous staff surveys.





menu



38° F

Choose your town



Q Search

Market with TAPinto

Franchise TAPinto

Marion P. Thomas Charter School Making Academic Headlines

By [Tap Into Article](#)

Published December 13, 2024



Among Newark's high schools, Marion P Thomas Charter School showed impressive improvement with a 17% point gain in students passing the literacy test, exceeding the overall city pass rate for high schools.

Climate & Culture



*Recognitions, Events,
& Initiatives*

High School Debate Team



MPTCS participated in its first debate, hosted in Basking Ridge this past weekend. Freshman Fiona Chin competed in five rounds over the course of two days. Although she did not advance to Nationals, Fiona secured a victory against Edge Mount High School in the second round.



On Saturday, Dontayjah, a high school junior, and Iyanna, a high school sophomore, were recognized for scoring in the top 10% of their cohort in the Kean Scholars Academy (KSA). KSA is a pre-college program that offers remote and on-campus college courses to high school students.

Spelling Bee

STEAM Scholars participated in a Spelling Bee. Each homeroom class held competitions among classmates to select their top spellers. The winners from each homeroom then competed against one another within their grade level on stage, culminating in the nomination of STEAM's Spelling Bee Champions.

Winners

Kindergarten: Kamran Campbell

1st Grade: Aldrin Bonilla

2nd Grade: Kalani Campbell

3rd Grade: Hammad Ganiyu

4th Grade: Brandon Odotei

5th Grade: Oyindolapo Bodunde

6th Grade: Euriy Baez

7th Grade: Samuel Calderon

8th Grade: Julius Beaubrun



Scholastic Book Fair in our Schools: Growing a Love for Reading 📖

The Scholastic Book Fair is an exciting opportunity to promote the importance of reading and learning in our community. Like the *Tree of Knowledge*, the book fair represents growth and discovery, encouraging students and families to explore the joy of books.

Reading is key to building critical thinking skills, imagination, and lifelong learning. Don't forget to read every night and cultivate your love for reading and help your minds grow, one book at a time.



💛🐾 Thanksgiving Food Drive:
Tigers with Heart 🐾💛

Leading up to Thanksgiving, our schools came together to embrace the *core value of the Tiger encased in a heart*, compassion, and community.

Thanks to the generosity of our Village, we collected food and monetary donations to support families in need, ensuring they could celebrate with a hearty meal.

This effort, spearheaded by Ms. Jean Louis and her team, highlighted the true spirit of our community, and we are grateful for everyone who contributed. Thank you for being Tigers with Heart!



🎉 Climate and Culture Fall Ball: A Celebration of Students 🎉

The PAC and STEAM Campus students came together for an unforgettable Climate and Culture Fall Ball, hosted at the high school.

This amazing collaboration celebrated our students in a fun and engaging way, fostering unity and school spirit across campuses.



MPTCS Reaches Master Certified Board Status!



November Student *Spotlight*



Grade K
Sankofa Academy

STUDENT
spotlight



Grade 2
STEAM Academy

STUDENT
spotlight



Grade 7
PAC Academy

STUDENT
spotlight

November High School Student *Spotlight*



Grade 9
High School

STUDENT
spotlight



Grade 10
High School

STUDENT
spotlight



Grade 11
High School

STUDENT
spotlight



Grade 12
High School

STUDENT
spotlight

November Employee *Spotlight*



Mariam Cannon
High School

EMPLOYEE
spotlight



Zariah Jones
PAC Academy

EMPLOYEE
spotlight



Ayoh Julu
Sankofa Academy

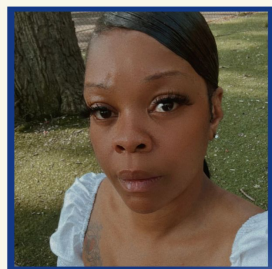
EMPLOYEE
spotlight



Jenny-Ley Loiseau
STEAM Academy

EMPLOYEE
spotlight

November Parent *Spotlight*



Felicia Holmes
High School

PARENT
spotlight



Tanisha Ramsey
PAC Academy

PARENT
spotlight



Gabriel Okundaye
Sankofa Academy

PARENT
spotlight



Mr. Ramsey
STEAM Academy

PARENT
spotlight

Community Event



12/17: McClouds Care at American Dream Mall

School Programs & Initiatives



12/18: Sankofa Winter Showcase
12/19: High School Winter Program
12/19: District Holiday Party
12/20: Preschool Winter Program (PAC)
1/6: School Reopens for Students & Teachers
1/7: Principal Corner (STEAM)
1/9: PK 4 Moving Up Parent Meeting (STEAM)
1/16: Principal Corner (PAC)

Climate & Culture



12/17: STEAM Holiday Game Night
1/17: Village Celebration
1/20: MLK Day - Schools are Closed
1/21: 90s Day

On the Horizon...

happy holidays

from Central Office to You!



Thank you
for
Listening!

