



Marion P. Thomas Charter School

Parent University
December 2024 Edition



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Dear MPTCS Families,

Thank you for your partnership and for entrusting us with your children. December is a special month at MPTCS. It is an exciting time filled with winter celebrations, events, and assemblies to showcase your scholars' talent and hard work. We encourage you to attend, as your presence is invaluable and will boost your children's confidence in unimaginable ways. It also gives us an opportunity to see you and for you to stay connected to our Village and one another. We need this now more than ever.

While our traditional festivities are underway, please be reminded that learning remains our top priority. Therefore, we need your children to arrive every day, on time, and ready to learn, until our last day on Friday, December 20th. We also need the same commitment when our schools reopen on Monday, January 6th.

During the break, I encourage you to enjoy your children and do things that bring you joy. Take time to relax and appreciate the little things. In preparation for phase two of the school year, please ensure that your scholar reads daily and completes all homework tasks to a high standard. We are on a mission and with our shared commitment to your children, we can give them the best that they deserve.

In closing, regardless of the traditions you observe, we are ONE Village. May this season bring you an abundance of peace, love, joy, and cherished memories. Simply stated, I wish you a Merry Everything! Here is to hoping that 2025 is your best year yet. Manifest it!

Kind Regards,

Angela Mincey

Superintendent

Our “Why” Behind the Work...

Our 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.

The Parent University 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.



Health & Wellness

Important Medical Update for Grades PreK and 6th

For PreK: The law requires that every child 6 months through 5 years of age who attends any childcare center or school facility must annually receive at least one dose of the influenza vaccine between Sept. 1st and Dec 31st. If your child is 3-5 years old and in PreK on or after September 1st, he/she must receive at least one dose of the flu vaccine this fall. Please, contact your physician as soon as possible to schedule an appointment. Free flu vaccines are also offered at your local City Health Department.

Once your child has received the flu vaccine, please forward the documentation from their physician or health department indicating the date it was given, so your child's health record may be updated. If your child does not receive the state-required vaccine and does not have a letter of medical or religious exemption, they will not be permitted to return to school on January 6th when school resumes after the winter break.

Children born on or after 1/1/1997 and entering or attending 6th grade must have received one dose of Tdap given on or after their 10th birthday and one dose of a meningococcal-containing vaccine. NOTE: This applies to students who turn 11 years old and attend grade six.

Please contact your child's physician or clinic for an appointment or copy of these updated records to comply with these requirements. Please bring copies of your child's updated immunization records to the school nurse or email them.

If your child does not receive the state-required vaccine and does not have a letter of medical or religious exemption, they will not be permitted to return to school on January 6th when school resumes after the winter break.

Winter Spirit Week

Spirit Week: Dec. 16th - 20th



Parents, we need your help to make Winter Spirit Week a success! Please assist your younger scholars in selecting outfits that fit the theme for each day. For our older students, ensure they come dressed to impress in their themed attire every day!

While uniforms are not required, all outfits must follow our dress-down day guidelines to maintain a safe and respectful school environment:

- Clothing must be free from holes.
- No hoodies
- No offensive, inappropriate, or suggestive slogans or images.
- Shoulders and midriffs must be covered; no sheer or strapless tops.
- Shorts, skirts, and tops worn with leggings/jeggings must reach mid-thigh.
- Closed-toe shoes are required; sneakers are encouraged.

Let's show our holiday spirit and creativity while staying school-appropriate! We can't wait to see everyone's festive outfits.

Winter Performances

PAC Academy Winter Festival

December 16th - 19th

A series of events will take place during the school day. Activities will include: Holiday Read-Aloud, Cookie Decorating, Holiday Karaoke, Holiday Photo Opportunities. For more information on how you can become involved, please contact the PAC Family & Community Engagement Specialist via email at lpowell@mptcs.org.



Wednesday
December 18th @ 2:30 p.m.

STEAM's Winter Showcase will take families on "A Journey Through the Holidays." Parents are invited to join the festivities. Your applause and smiles will enhance the celebration and certainly bring joy to all participating students.

Winter Performances

Sankofa Academy
Winter Showcase

Wednesday, December 18th @ 2:30 p.m.

Sankofa Academy will host their Winter Showcase on Wed., December 18th from 2:30-3:30 p.m. All families are invited to enjoy the performances and spread some holiday cheer.



MPTC High School
Visual & Performing Arts Show

Thursday, December 19th
@ 6 PM

Support the high school's visual & performing arts department as they present *EXPRESSION*. Parents are encouraged to attend to cheer on their teen and enjoy the show. Tickets are \$2 for students and \$5 for adults and non-students.

Community Resources

Toy Giveaway

WHEN: *Tuesday, December 17th*

TIME: *10 AM - 12 noon*

WHERE: *Willing Heart Center*

*555 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
Newark*

The Willing Heart Community Care Center will conduct a toy giveaway on Tuesday, Dec. 17th. Toys will be distributed to parents only, on a first- come, first-served basis, or while supplies last.



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The Willing Heart Community Care Center's roots are based in Metropolitan Baptist Church, Metropolitan created The Willing Heart Community Care Center as a separate, non-profit, 501(c) (3) tax-exempt corporation to consolidate and enhance Metropolitan's outreach efforts. The Willing Heart Community Care Center has become a beacon of hope for residents of Newark and its surrounding communities.



Food Giveaway

WHEN: *Thursday, December 19th*

TIME: *9:00 AM*

WHERE: *Branch Brook Park
Blossom Welcome Center*

Essex County Executive Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr. and RWJBarnabas Health will present a Holiday Food Distribution Event to help families impacted by inflation and rising food costs. There will be 1,000 frozen turkeys and boxes of non-perishable food available on a first-come first-served basis. One box of food and one turkey will be provided to each family or car while supplies last.

Our 25-26
Enrollment
Application is
NOW OPEN!



APPLY
today!

Invite your friends and family
to become a part of the
MPTCS Village!

Openings are available for
PreK-9th Grade. For
instructions on how to visit
mptcs.org for more info.



Current students do not have
to reapply! Refer a friend or
family member today! To
become a Parent Recruitment
Ambassador email
enroll@mptcs.org