

**Dear STEAM Academy Families,**

Welcome to the 2025–2026 school year! I'm excited to welcome you back as we enter another incredible year of learning, growth, and community at STEAM Academy. This will be my third year as Principal and my 22<sup>nd</sup> year in education; all proudly dedicated to serving the Newark community. I remain as committed as ever to providing your children with a safe, enriching, and empowering school experience.

Looking back on this past year, we have so much to be proud of. We finished the year with a chronic absenteeism rate under 15% and an average daily attendance of 94%, a reflection of the hard work and commitment of our families, staff, and scholars. Our goal this year is to keep improving these numbers, and with your continued partnership, we know we can.

At STEAM Academy, we hold tight to the belief that *"It takes a village,"* as our Marion P. Thomas Charter School mantra reminds us. Our own STEAM theme remains: "All of us are better than any one of us, as long as each of us gives the best in us." When families, educators, and community members work together, we model the excellence we want our scholars to achieve.

This year, the STEAM Team will continue working with urgency and purpose to deliver grade-level, culturally relevant, and engaging instruction that challenges and supports every scholar. Our mission is to prepare students to become self-directed learners, critical thinkers, and responsible leaders in their communities and beyond.

We invite you to stay engaged throughout the year:

- Visit [www.mptcs.org](http://www.mptcs.org) for updates and resources
- Follow our social media pages for announcements and celebrations:  
[https://www.instagram.com/principal\\_silvestre/](https://www.instagram.com/principal_silvestre/)
- Reach out to our main office with questions, feedback, or ideas at (973) 621-0060 ext. 2212 – your voice matters.

Together, we will build on our success and make this our strongest year yet. Welcome back—we're ready for a powerful year of learning, leadership, and limitless potential.

With pride and partnership,

Principal Silvestre