STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2

PROMOTING ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

OBJECTIVE

Design and implement a rigorous, culturally responsive, project-based instructional program that prepares students to succeed in college, careers, and life.

Rationale

Academic excellence is the bedrock of all high-performing educational institutions. Our aspirations for our scholars — that they succeed in college, thrive in careers, lead fulfilling and productive lives, and engage intelligently on matters of importance to them and their families — can only be achieved if we are equipping them with essential knowledge and skills. To drive our mission forward, we must strengthen our academic program — raising expectations, supporting teachers, and creating innovative opportunities for students to learn and to demonstrate their knowledge.

> "We don't have rigorous enough academic courses to prepare us for college. The test scores align with that.
>
> *MPTCS Scholar*

Percent of students and staff that agree or strongly agree that **MPTCS is preparing students to succeed in college**

Average SAT Scores, 20-21

*Taken from the NJ School Performance Report

FOCUS AREAS

INSTRUCTIONAL RIGOR	EDUCATOR SUPPORT & DEVELOPMENT	INNOVATIVE INSTRUCTION & ASSESSMENT
Improve student learning outcomes by pairing increased instructional rigor with relevant content	Provide support and development opportunities that build teacher cohesion and the capacity of front-line educators	Create innovative opportunities for students to explore their passions and demonstrate subject mastery

COMMITMENTS

WE WILL...

- Audit our PreK-12 curricular program and seek targeted opportunities to invest in vetted, high-quality instructional materials
- Codify new protocols to collect, analyze, communicate, and use data to make instructionally sound decisions
- Offer additional opportunities for accelerated learning and incorporate at least one new Honors, Advanced Placement, or Dual Enrollment course annually into the school's academic program
- Establish a professional culture of learning by investing heavily in teacher and staff development
- Design an in-house model to train, retain, and build leadership capacity among internal staff
- Create an annual district-wide professional learning plan and provide relevant, useful, high-quality professional learning for all educators
- Build differentiated Teacher Academies and fully implement content-based Professional Learning Communities (PLCs)
- Ensure that informal and formal teacher observations are conducted with fidelity
- Create systematic opportunities for students to demonstrate their knowledge via capstone project-based assessments
- Implement coursework that aligns to students' interests and infuses school themes, real-world learning (including financial literacy), and hands-on experiences