

Welcome Parents!

We're so glad you're here!



Chit Chat

WITH PRINCIPAL SILVESTRE



Join us for our first
Chit Chat of the Year!

This is a great opportunity to connect, share,
ask questions, and learn more about our school
community, goals, and plans for the year ahead.

Your voice matters!

Together, we can make a difference
for our scholars.

-  Respectful
-  Responsible
-  Reliable
-  Resilient
-  Resourceful

It Takes a Village
TEAM STEAM

Good Morning Parents
Today is Thursday, October 22nd



Welcome

2026-27





FOLLOW ME !!

**To get the
principal's Point of
view follow:**

@PRINCIPAL_SILVESTRE



MPTCS.Org

STEAM Academy Vice Principals



September Recap





The MPTCS Mission



The 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.



MPTCS Crest



As we continue to Reimagine our Village, we are unveiling a new crest that speaks to four core values. The crest will adorn the high school uniforms next year and has been designed to guide our young people and govern our work with them as follows:

- ***The Sankofa Bird*** is a West African adinkra symbol which means to “go back and get it.” We want our scholars to use knowledge from the past to inform, inspire, build a successful future, and give back to the community.
- ***The Tree of Knowledge*** symbolizes lifelong learning that is rooted in rich culture and well-rounded experiences.
- ***The Torch*** represents the igniting of fire, passion, and leadership in our scholars. We want them to be trailblazers and light their own paths.
- ***The Tiger*** encased in the heart signifies the balancing of strength, boldness, resilience, and prowess with compassion and strong character. We want our scholars to be good people who are courageous and self-aware.

*House
Rankings*

4 HOUSES

ONE FAMILY, ONE MISSION



HOUSE
TIGER



HOUSE
SANKOFA



HOUSE
TORCH



HOUSE
TOK



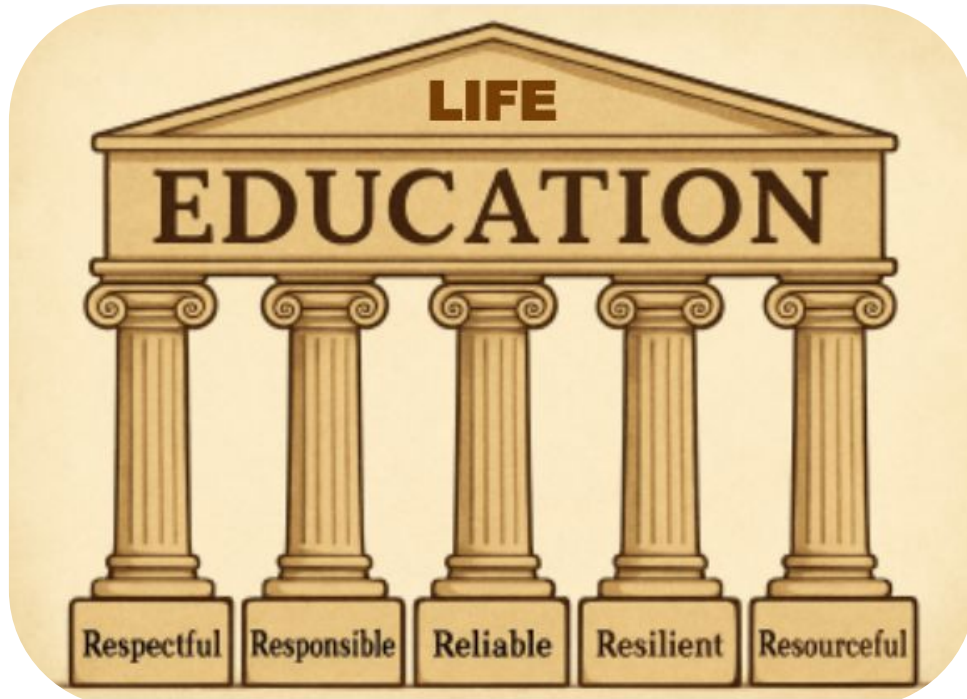
FOUR HOUSES • ONE FAMILY • ONE MISSION

Scholar Pledge

I Pledge:

1. To be present, both physically and mentally, to absorb and internalize the information given.
2. To try my best in all that I do. Making mature and wise decisions, and holding myself accountable for my actions.
3. Not to fear mistakes, but reflect, learn from them, and continue to push forward.
4. To always represent myself, the school, my family and the community by being a respectful ambassador for the city of Newark

Pillars for Success



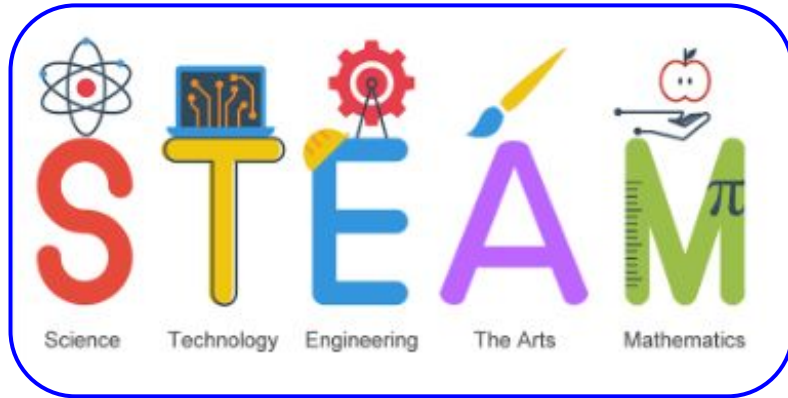
I am:
Respectful
Responsible
Reliable
Resilient
Resourceful

An illustration on the left side of the image shows a stack of hands of various skin tones (brown, tan, orange, grey, green, blue) reaching up and overlapping each other. The hands are positioned as if they are about to clasp or are already clapping, symbolizing unity and teamwork. The background is white.

School Mantra

“All of us are better than any one of us, as long as each of us, gives the best in us”

STEAM Education



STEAM Approach

- Observe - Explore
- Create - Innovate
- Plan - Revise - Collaborate
- Publish - Share - Present

What Should Our STEAM Academy Scholars Look Like?



marion p thomas
CHARTER SCHOOL



Grades K-5

Navy blue polo with MPTCS logo
Navy blue pants, skorts, or shorts
Navy blue cardigan with MPTCS logo

Grades 6-8

Light blue oxford shirt with MPTCS logo
Navy Blue uniform pants, skorts, or shorts
Navy blue ascot or tie

ALL STUDENTS MUST WEAR BLACK SHOES OR SNEAKERS.

Kids Paradise
1016 Springfield Ave
Irvington NJ 07111
973-374-4700

Today Kids
1049 Springfield Ave
Irvington NJ 07111
973-374-3070







- **Ensure your email is accurate in RealTime**
 - **Download RealTime Parent Portal**
- **Join our class Dojo**
- **Follow our social media (IG - Principal_Silvestre & mptcs_steam_academy)**

Staff & Student Safety

Staff and Student safety is our top priority. Whenever we have a safety concern, our expectation is for everyone to comply.

If you see something, say something.

School Instruction Team!



Principal Silvestre



**VP Richardson
Math & Science**



**VP Pride
Humanities**



**Ms. Joseph
PreK Coach**



**Ms. George
ELA Coach**

School Support Team!



Ms. Munoz
FACE



Ms. Kirkland
C & C Dean



Ms. Burgwyn
C & C Dean



Ms. Hinds
Office Manager



Ms. Hudson-Lambkin
Nurse



Ms. Sanchez
Social Worker



Ms. De Quatro & Mr. Kelly
Child Study Team



School Operations

Important Dates Until Next Chit Chat

10/22: September Perfect Attendance & Promptness - Ice Cream Social

10/22: Family Engagement Council Meeting (5:30 pm)

10/23: Pink-Out Day - Supporting Breast Cancer Awareness (\$2 donation)

10/27: Fire Prevention Week with Newark Fire Department

10/28: Picture Day Retakes

10/29: 8th Grade Academic Trip to Liberty Science Center

10/30: Trunk O Treat - Halloween Dress-Up day (no aftercare)

11/3: Election Day (STEAM Student Council & Country Elections)

11/5 & 11/6: School Closed - Teacher Convention

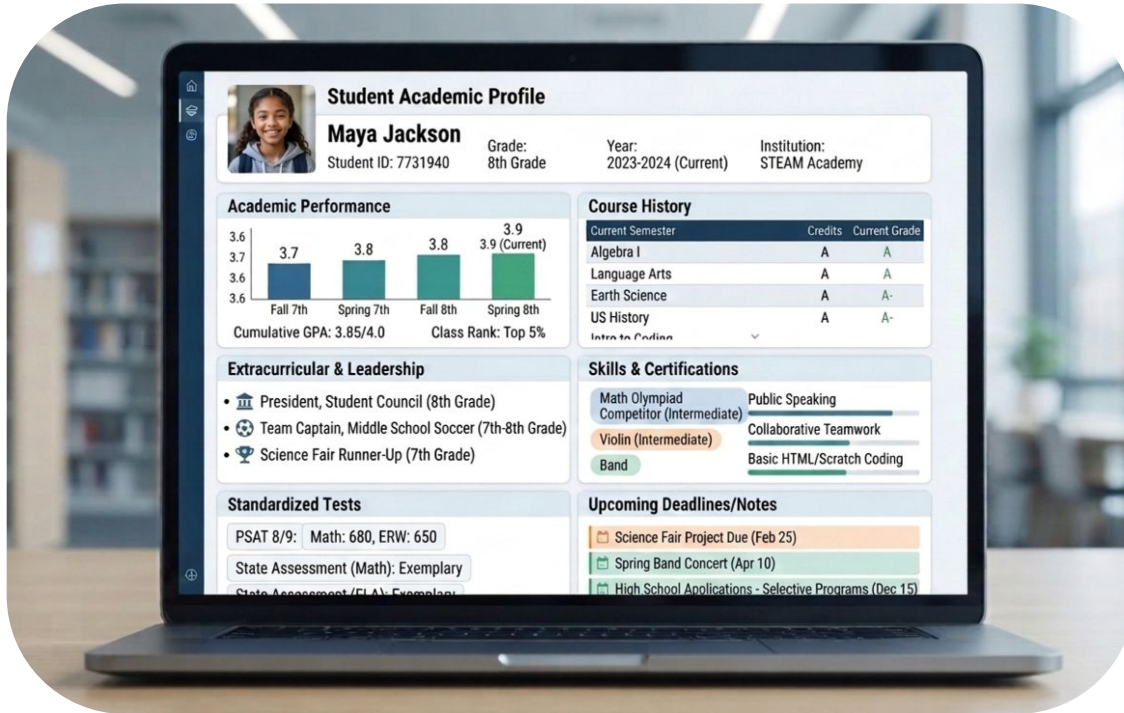
11/10: Tiger for a Day - 6th to 8th graders visit MPTCS High School

11/12: Next Chit Chat with Principal Silvestre (9:15 am to 10:00 am)





Student Academic Record



It provides a picture of a scholar's Academic journey (K-8).

This is your scholar's calling card and the first thing other institutions see before meeting them.

It plays a major role in College admissions and scholarship opportunities.



- September 2nd
- January 11th
- April 12th

Key Features of i-Ready

1. **Diagnostic Assessments** – Adaptive tests that identify students' strengths and areas for growth.
2. **Personalized Lessons** – Individualized instruction based on diagnostic results for each student.
3. **Progress Monitoring** – Tracks student growth and helps teachers adjust instruction.
4. **Standards-Aligned Content** – Supports state and Common Core standards.
5. **Teacher Resources** – Provides reports and lesson plans to help differentiate instruction.



- November 16th
- March 1st
- June 1st

The **LinkIt** assessment is a valuable tool to support our academic goals and ensure every scholar receives the interventions they need. Specifically, these assessments will:

1. **Measure Student Growth:** Analyze progress through forms A-C over the course of the year to help identify individual and group achievements.
2. **Inform Regrouping and Interventions:** Provide critical data to regroup scholars strategically and offer targeted interventions for those requiring additional support.
3. **Facilitate Mastery Scheduling:** Identify and schedule students for participation in the after-school mastery program to address specific academic needs and enhance overall performance.



Student NJSLA-A Academic Record was sent home this week.

First Trimester progress reports were also given out yesterday.

Next NJSLA will be in May 2027

Spring of 2026:

ELA - 37.5%

Math - 23.4%

STEAM Academy

DATA





iReady Diagnostic - English Language Arts

Grade Level	At Grade Level	1 Grade level Below	2 Grade Levels Below	3+ Grade Levels Below
K (26)	19.2% (5)	80.8% (21)	-	-
1 (28)	21.4% (6)	71.4% (20)	7.2% (2)	-
2 (30)	23.3% (7)	26.7% (8)	50.0% (15)	-



iReady Diagnostic - English Language Arts

Grade Level	At Grade Level	1 Grade level Below	2 Grade Levels Below	3+ Grade Levels Below
3 (41)	46.3% (19)	19.5% (8)	26.8% (11)	7.4% (3)
4 (25)	32.0% (8)	28.0% (7)	12.0% (3)	28.0% (7)
5 (30)	16.7% (5)	20.0% (6)	36.7% (11)	26.6% (8)

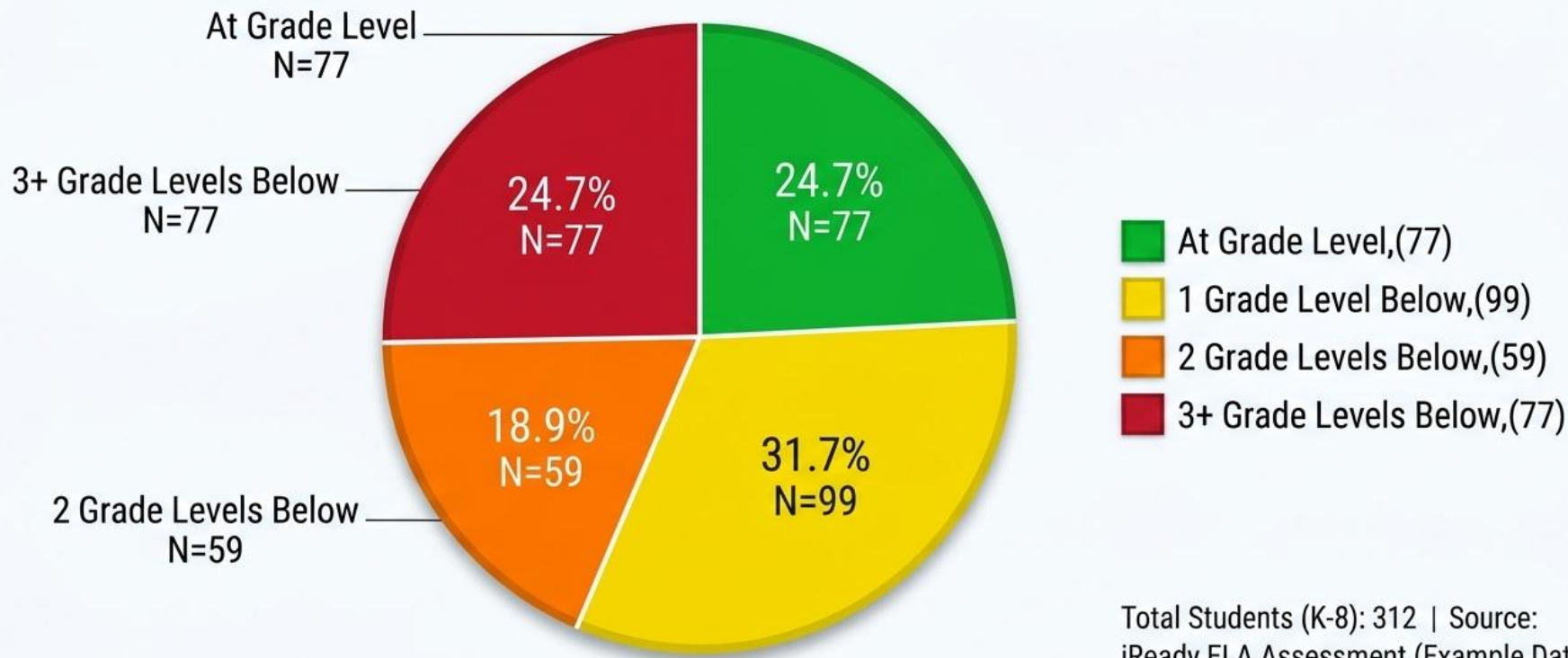


iReady Diagnostic - English Language Arts

Grade Level	At Grade Level	1 Grade level Below	2 Grade Levels Below	3+ Grade Levels Below
6 (46)	17.4% (8)	28.3% (13)	8.7% (4)	45.6% (21)
7 (43)	27.9% (12)	11.6% (5)	9.3% (4)	51.2% (22)
8 (43)	16.3% (7)	25.6% (11)	20.9% (9)	37.2% (16)

ELA iReady Scores (K-8) Distribution

Data Analysis: Student ELA Performance Levels



Total Students (K-8): 312 | Source:
iReady ELA Assessment (Example Data)

At-Home Support for Improvement in ELA

Support Your Scholar's Reading at Home

- Track your scholar's reading log. Encourage your scholar to read for at least 15 minutes every day.
- Check for understanding. Ask questions about what your scholar has read or have them summarize the text in their own words.
- Encourage daily reading. Have your scholar read independently or aloud to a family member.

Build Vocabulary Every Week

- Discover new words. Identify unfamiliar words while reading.
- Understand and use new words. Have your scholar define each word in their own words and practice using it in a sentence.



iReady Diagnostic - Math				
Grade Level	At Grade Level	1 Grade level Below	2 Grade Levels Below	3+ Grade Levels Below
K (26)	-	100% (26)	-	-
1 (28)	-	78.6% (22)	21.4% (6)	-
2 (30)	6.7% (2)	56.7% (17)	26.6% (11)	-



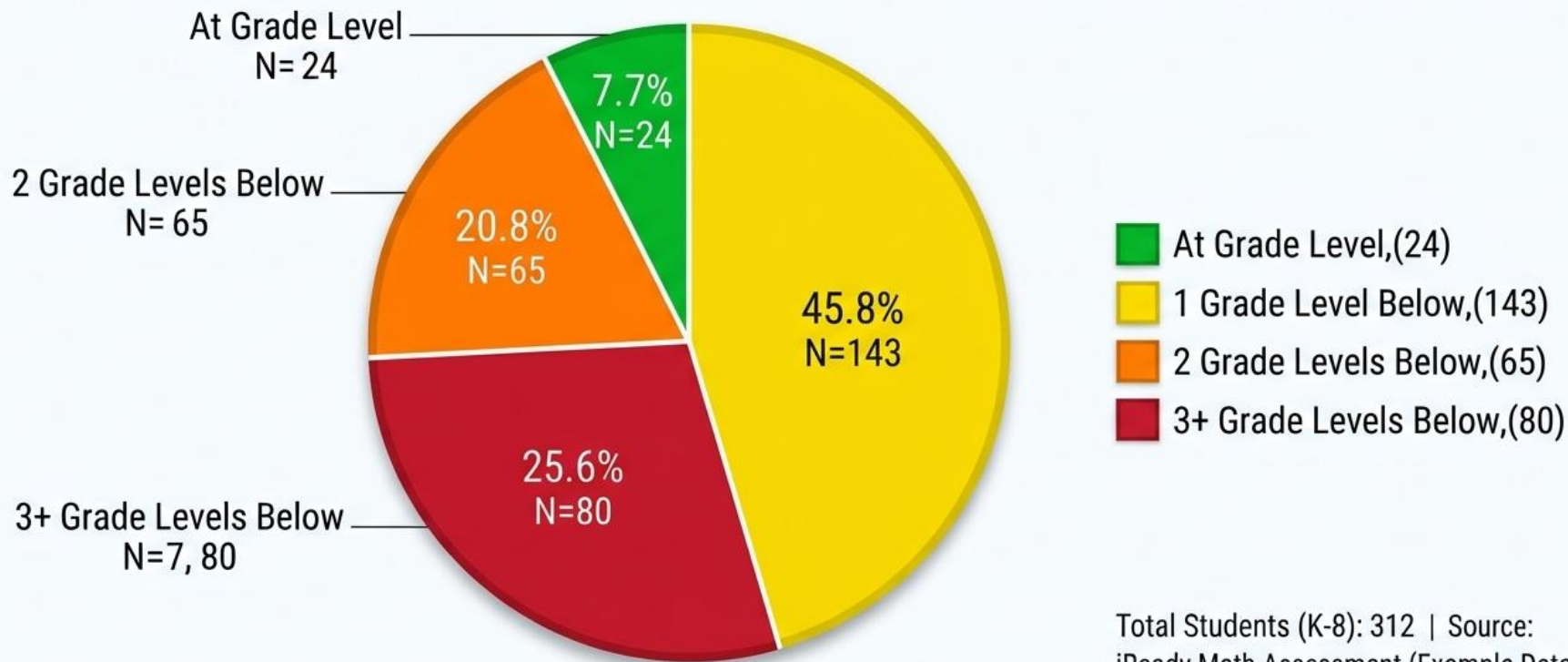
iReady Diagnostic - Math				
Grade Level	At Grade Level	1 Grade level Below	2 Grade Levels Below	3+ Grade Levels Below
3 (41)	4.9% (2)	61.0% (25)	24.4%(10)	9.7% (4)
4 (25)	12.0% (3)	40.0% (10)	32.0% (8)	16.0% (4)
5 (30)	10.0% (3)	33.3% (10)	30.0% (9)	26.7% (8)



iReady Diagnostic - Math				
Grade Level	At Grade Level	1 Grade level Below	2 Grade Levels Below	3+ Grade Levels Below
6 (46)	8.7% (4)	26.1% (12)	17.4% (8)	47.8% (22)
7 (43)	18.6% (8)	16.3% (7)	16.3% (7)	48.8% (21)
8 (43)	4.6% (2)	32.6% (14)	14.0% (6)	48.8% (21)

Math iReady Scores (K-8) Distribution

Data Analysis: Student Performance Levels



Total Students (K-8): 312 | Source:
iReady Math Assessment (Example Data)

At-Home Support for Improvement in Math

Practice math for at least 15 minutes every day.

- Review multiplication facts from 1-12 until your scholar achieves mastery and can recall them from memory (Grade 3 and up).
- Ask your scholar to explain how they solved a problem and why they chose that strategy.

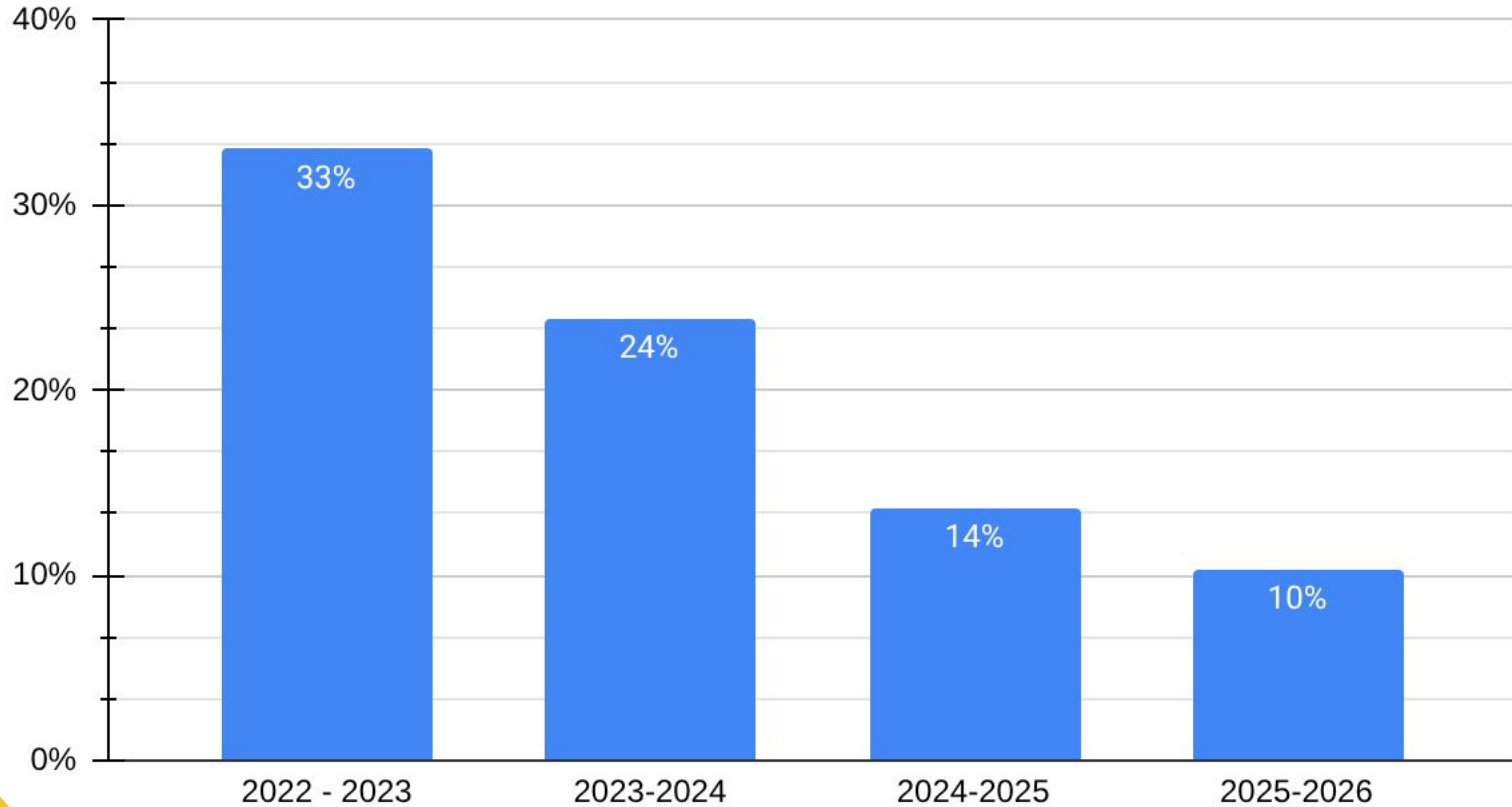
Solve one word problem every day.

- Use resources such as Khan Academy or YouTube for additional practice, explanations, and examples.
- Review returned assignments with your scholar to identify mistakes, clarify misunderstandings, and reinforce learning.

ATTENDANCE

MATTERS

Chronic Absenteeism Rate





Attendance

2026 - 2027 School Year



Attendance Record - 37th Day of School

	Students	Percentage
Perfect	157	45.2%
Good ($\leq 4\%$) <i>(2 days or less)</i>	110	31.7%
Frequent (4% - 9%) <i>(3 days)</i>	30	9.0%
Chronic ($\geq 10\%$) <i>(4 or more days)</i>	49	14.1%

Chronic Absenteeism

Chronic absenteeism is when a student misses **10% or more** of the school year. As of 10/22, we have accumulated a total of **37 days of school**, chronic absenteeism applies to students who have missed **3.7 (≈4 days) or more days**. For the entire school year, chronic absenteeism applies to students that miss **18 or more** days of school.

Here's how chronic absenteeism affects promotion:

- **18–24 Unexcused Absences:** Summer school will be required to make up missed seat time and be eligible for promotion
- **25+ Unexcused Absences:** The student will be required to repeat the grade due to insufficient seat time

# of students currently chronic	4-6 Absences	7-9 Absences	≥10 Absences
49 Students	27 Students	14 Students	8 Students

Our goal for the year is **≤ 10%**, which equal to **≤ 34** students.

Attendance Data

School Goal

97% Average Daily Attendance

September avg	
95.90%	
M	
94.50%	
T	
96.58%	
W	
95.95%	
Th	
96.96%	
F	
94.71%	

October avg	
94.12%	
M	
93.95%	
T	
96.25%	
W	
93.37%	
Th	
96.35%	
F	
90.59%	

Friday's Attendance is very important. We have to make sure our scholars attend school every day!

Chit-Chat Schedule & Time

Next Chit Chat
November 12, 2026
9:15 am - 10:00 am



QUESTIONS?

COMMENTS?

CONCERNS?