Marion P. Thomas Charter School

Superintendent's Report

9.29.26









REIMAGINING *the* VILLAGE

The MPTCS Mission

Board Meeting Agenda

Agenda:

- *Welcome & Mission*
- *Attendance, Enrollment, & Academics*
- *MPTCS is on the Rise*
- *On the Horizon*
- *A Recap from our Guest Speaker*





The Tree of Knowledge ***The Torch*** ***The Sankofa Bird*** ***The Tiger***

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***

Digging Deep

Academic Updates

Teaching, Learning, & Attendance

MARION P. THOMAS CHARTER SCHOOL

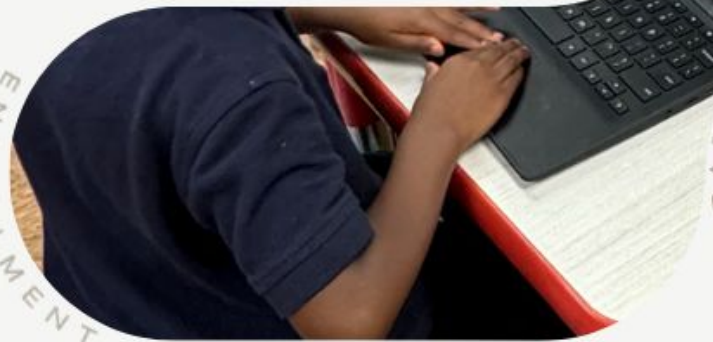
THE VILLAGE EST. 1999

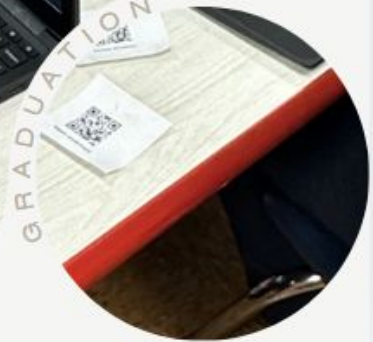












Attendance & Enrollment

SY 2026-27 year to date · 21 days in membership · as of September 29, 2026

Campus	Grades	Enrolled	% Present
High School	9–12	494	**90.9%**
STEAM	PK3–8	349	**95.4%**
imPACt Academy (overall)	PK3–8	300	**94.5%**
imPACt Lower	PK3–4	177	93.9%
imPACt Upper	5–8	123	95.2%
Sankofa Academy	PK3–3	69	**95.9%**
Network total		**1,212**	**93.4%**

TOTAL ENROLLMENT

1,218

1,212 across four campuses, plus 6 students in out-of-district placements

September is the baseline. Monthly changes will be reported starting in October.

Chronic absenteeism: will be reported next month. Students have only 21 days in membership so far, so a single absence moves a student's rate by about 5 points.

Class of 2026 Graduation Report

N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.2(f) requires charter schools to report graduation results to the board of trustees at a public meeting each year, no later than September 30.

REQUIRED REPORT-OUTS

1. Total students graduating in the prior school year
2. Graduates who met the assessment requirement by substitute competency test, portfolio appeal, or alternate IEP requirements
3. 12th graders denied graduation, and how many were denied solely for the assessment requirement

Class of 2026 Graduation Rate: 94.2% (excluding appeals)

State four-year adjusted cohort graduation rate · based on data submitted to NJSLEDS by Aug 31, 2026

1 Build the adjusted cohort (the denominator)

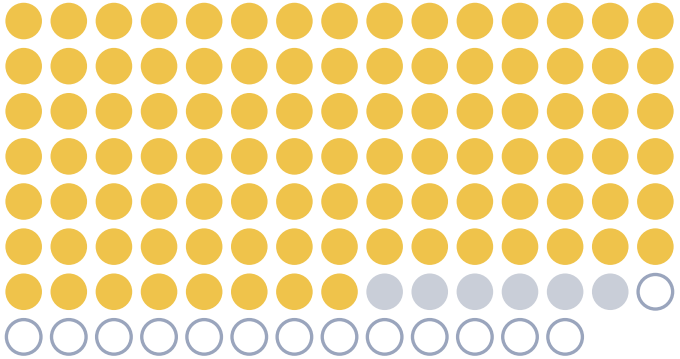
9 — Started 9th grade in fall 2022
First-time 9th graders become the Class of 2026

+ — Add students who transferred in
Anyone who joined in grades 9–12 (118 students in all)

− — Remove documented exits: 14 students
Verified transfer to another school, moved out of state/country, or deceased

= — Adjusted cohort: 104 students
Everyone the school is accountable for graduating

2 All 118 students, by outcome



98 graduated · 6 unverified transfers · 14 excluded

98 ÷ 104 = 94.2%

Who are the 6? Students who dropped out **or** left without a verified transfer remain in the 104 count as non-graduates.

Graduation Denials & Pending Appeals

Figures reflect the Aug 31, 2026 NJSLEDS submission; appealed items are pending NJDOE approval

1 12th graders denied graduation

0
Denied graduation

0
Denied solely for the assessment requirement

Why 0 denials if the rate is 94.2%? Every enrolled senior graduated. The 6 students outside the 98 are not denials; they are transfers out that the state has not yet verified, so they remain in the cohort.

2 Graduation data appeals

Aug 31 — **Data finalized in NJSLEDS**
Tonight's figures come from this submission

Mid-Sept — **NJDOE shares preliminary rates**
Appeal window opens to correct data errors

Now — **3 appeals under NJDOE review**
1 more may be filed before the deadline

Next — **NJDOE rules on each appeal**
Approved changes update the final rate

Graduation Assessment Pathways

Graduates must show proficiency in ELA and math. Pathways 2 and 3 open only after a student takes the NJGPA.

PATHWAY 1

NJGPA

State graduation test taken in grade 11 (ELA and math)

Pass = "Graduation Ready" score of 725 or higher

Not met? →

25

PATHWAY 2 **Substitute competency test**

Student earns the state cut score on an approved test such as the SAT, PSAT, ACT, or ACCUPLACER. The score itself proves proficiency; no state review of student work.

40

PATHWAY 3 **Portfolio appeal**

The school submits evidence to NJDOE: an Education Proficiency Plan (transcript, test history, intervention plan) plus the student's constructed-response tasks. NJDOE reviews and approves each student.

IEP alternate requirements: 0

Pathways are recorded separately for ELA and math, so a graduate can appear in more than one count. Class of 2026 portfolio appeals were due to NJDOE by May 1, 2026.

Graduation appeal vs. portfolio appeal: A graduation appeal corrects submitted data, such as documenting a transfer so a student leaves the cohort or fixing a graduate's exit record. A portfolio appeal (slide 3) is how a student meets the assessment requirement.

Congratulations

Amazing Work!

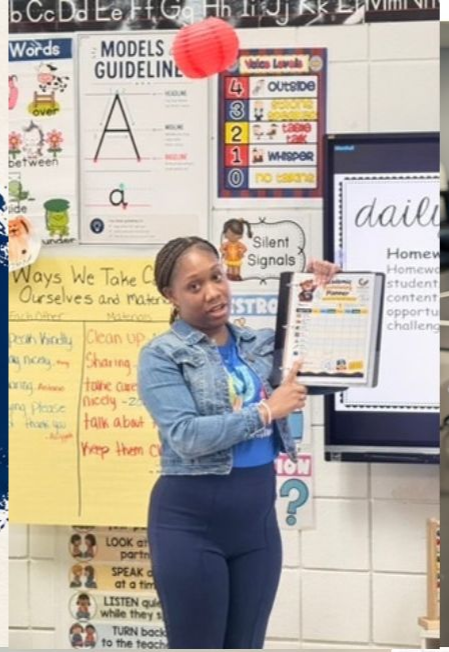
Highlights - MPTCS is on the Rise!

MARION P. THOMAS CHARTER SCHOOL

THE VILLAGE
EST. 1999



The First Few Weeks in Our Schools













Weekly Instructional Walks & Leader Practice Clinics

Through weekly instructional walks across all our schools, we support teachers in strengthening literacy, math, and science instruction.

We work collaboratively with school leaders to provide focused feedback that improves coaching, refines teacher practice, and supports stronger student outcomes.















Student Experiences

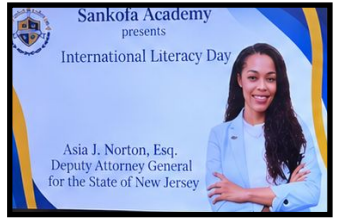
Five weeks into the school year, students are learning through a wide range of experiences. Guest readers joined classrooms for International Literacy Day, while teachers strengthened math and literacy instruction through Habits of Discussion. Middle school students explored STEM through Students 2 Science, high school students joined Senior Solar Sprints, and students connected live with NASA astronauts.

Across our schools, students celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month. A suicide prevention campaign also helped them identify trusted adults, seek support, and care for one another.



NASA







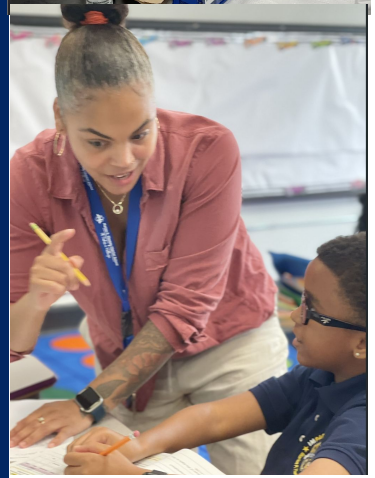


Suicide Prevention Month



Scholars with Suicide Prevention Poster

September's campaign emphasized prevention, trusted adults, support, and community care.





Hispanic Heritage Month



Hispanic Heritage Month

The Village began celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month by highlighting culture, identity, family stories, and the contributions of our scholars, families, and staff.



MARION P. THOMAS CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL

MARION P. THOMAS
CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL

WE ARE PROUD TO CELEBRATE OUR

12 SENIORS

WHO HAVE BEEN RECOGNIZED WITH THE

COLLEGE BOARD NATIONAL RECOGNITION PROGRAM



Your student(s) earned this academic honor because of their GPA of 3.5 or higher and outstanding performance on the PSAT/NMSQT®, PSAT™ 10, and/or AP® Exams. They can now list this honor on applications to stand out to colleges and scholarships.

Family & Community Engagement

Our schools have launched the year by welcoming families and community members into school life.

Back to School Night and Grandparents Day brought generations together, while Literacy Day gave families a chance to support learning.

The Early Childhood Advisory Council (Prek-3rd grade) and Family Engagement Council provide ongoing opportunities for families to share their perspectives and help shape our work.





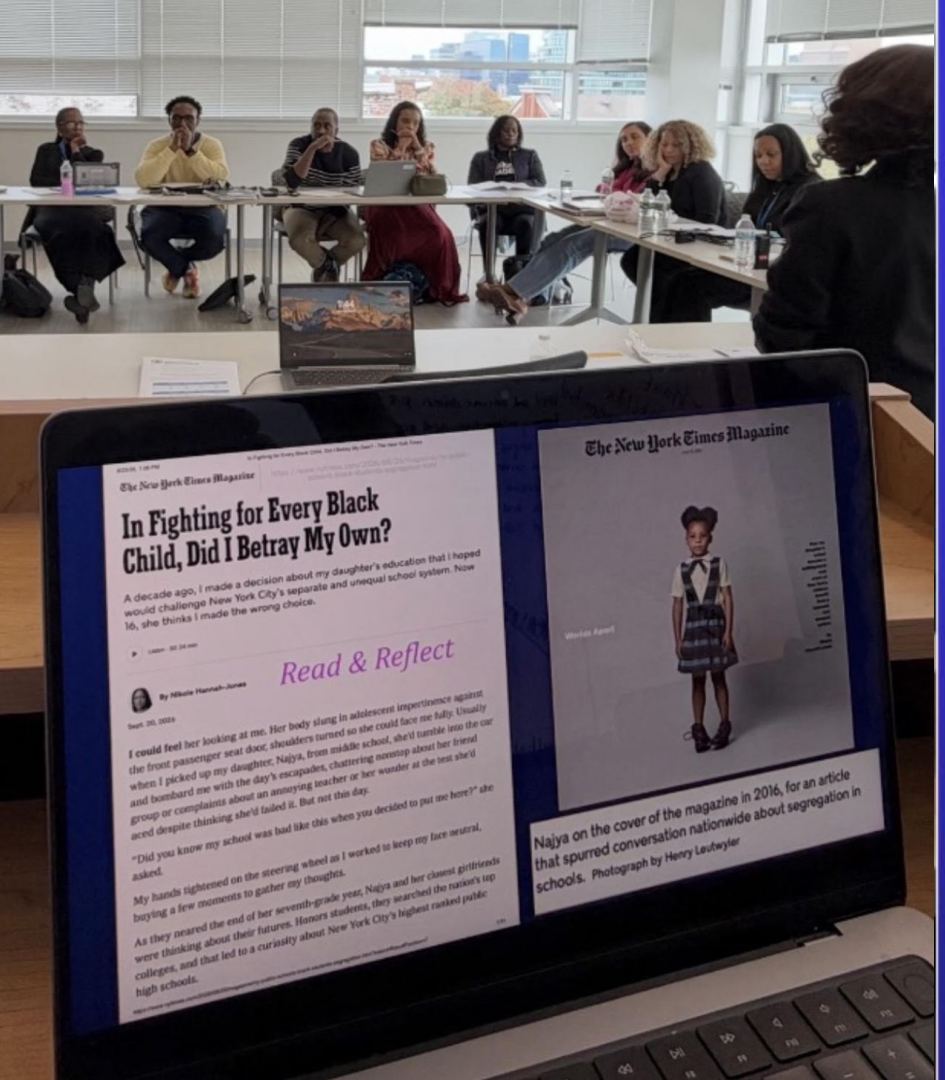












Professional Learning with Village Leaders

Last Friday, we had a heavy and candid convesation regarding the Nikole Hannah-Jones' think piece titled, "In Fighting for Every Black Child, Did I Betray My Own?"

We approached the discussion from a parental, school leader, and systemic lens.

The solution is hard, but the charge is simple, those of us occupying leadership roles have a fundamental responsibility to work collaboratively to fix the system and not maintain the status quo.

REIMAGINING THE VILLAGE

Is more than just a slogan.
Are you meeting the moment from whatever your seat you occupy?

On the Horizon

OCTOBER 2026

10/2	**School Custodian Appreciation Day**
10/4–10	**Banned Books Week**
10/4–10	**Fire Prevention Week**
10/5–9	**National Voter Education Week**
10/5–9	**Week of Respect**
10/6	**STEAM 7th Grade Field Trip** Students 2 Science
10/7	**HS 10th Grade Field Trip** Students 2 Science
10/9	**Perfect Attendance Dress Down Day**
10/12	**Indigenous Peoples Day**
10/18–22	**School Violence Awareness Week**
10/20	**PAC MS Field Trip** Students 2 Science
10/23–31	**Red Ribbon Week**
10/26	**Board Meeting**

2026 NEW JERSEY

General Election

Key dates and ways to vote

FREE VOTER WEBINAR · OCT 6 · NOON–1 P.M.

DATES TO KNOW

OCT 13	Register to vote
OCT 21	Sample ballots mailed
OCT 24 – NOV 1	Early voting
OCT 27	Request a mail ballot by mail
NOV 3	Election Day · 6 a.m.–8 p.m.
NOV 14	Cure form receipt deadline

VOTING OPTIONS

By mail
Mail, secure drop box, or county Board of Elections office.

Early in person
Oct 24–Nov 1 · Mon–Sat 10 a.m.–8 p.m. · Sun 10 a.m.–6 p.m.

Election Day
Nov 3 · Polls open 6 a.m.–8 p.m.

Mail ballots: return by 8 p.m. Nov 3 at a drop box or Board of Elections office. Mailed ballots need an Election Day postmark and must arrive by Nov 9.

MIKIE SHERRILL
Governor

DR. DALE G. CALDWELL
Lt. Governor

State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
PO BOX 500
TRENTON, NJ 08625-0500

DR. LILY LAUX
Commissioner

September 11, 2026

Reverand Vincent Rouse, Board President
Marion P. Thomas Charter School
125 Sussex Avenue
Newark, New Jersey 07103

Dear Reverand Rouse,

On February 1, 2023, following a comprehensive review of Marion P. Thomas Charter School (MPTCS), the New Jersey Department of Education (Department) renewed MPTCS with probationary status for a period of five years through June 2028, in accordance with *N.J.A.C.* 6A:11-2.1(a)(1).

Through the renewal process, the Department determined that MPTCS was not operating in compliance with its charter, statutes, and regulations. The primary concerns included the school's academic performance on statewide assessments, a failure to demonstrate high-quality instruction across classrooms and campuses, high chronic absenteeism and student discipline rates, and an inability to maintain a stable organizational structure leading to continuous improvement.

Pursuant to *N.J.A.C.* 6A:11-2.4(a)(3), MPTCS submitted a remedial plan to resolve the conditions that led to probation. On a quarterly basis, from March 2023 to March 2026, MPTCS officials met with Department representatives and submitted remedial plan updates inclusive of strategies to improve student performance on mandatory statewide assessments; increase instructional rigor and student engagement; reduce the school's chronic absenteeism and student discipline rates; and establish a stable organizational structure.

Through document review and stakeholder interviews with MPTCS stakeholders, Department representatives have confirmed that MPTCS has addressed the concerns that caused it to be placed on probationary status. MPTCS' New Jersey Student Learning Assessment (NJSLA) proficiency averages rose from 23.84% in English language arts (ELA) and 7.16% in mathematics in the 2021-2022 school year, to 38.70% in the ELA NJSLA and 14.15% in the mathematics NJSLA in the 2024-2025 school year. While the school's NJSLA proficiency rates have not met the New Jersey state average, MPTCS' 2024-2025 NJSLA ELA results exceed its approved sending district, Newark Public Schools (NPS), and its 2024-2025 NJSLA mathematics results have doubled since the 2021-2022 school year.

MPTCS has also successfully addressed the remaining concerns causing probationary status. Department representatives have conducted four probationary onsite visits since 2023, and the instruction observed across the school's campuses and grade levels demonstrates a shared standard for high-quality instruction. Based on Department data, MPTCS has reduced its chronic absenteeism from 49.2% in the 2021-2022 school year to 14.4% in the 2024-2025 school year. Additionally, MPTCS' out-of-school suspension rates have reduced from 9% in the 2021-2022 school year to 7% in the 2024-2025 school year. MPTCS has also

stabilized its organizational structure by retaining the same chief school administrator since its 2023 charter renewal and increasing its teacher retention rate from 62% in the 2022-2023 school year to 81% in the 2024-2025 school year.

Pursuant to *N.J.A.C.* 6A:11-2.4(a), the Department has determined that MPTCS has successfully implemented its remedial plan and shown demonstrable progress improving academic assessment performance, classroom instruction, organizational stability, chronic absenteeism, and general school climate and culture. Therefore, it is my pleasure to inform you that I am immediately removing MPTCS' probationary status.

The chart below confirms MPTCS' approved maximum enrollment for its approved sending district, NPS.

Grade Level	2025-2026 Current Approved Maximum	2026-2027	2027-2028
Pre-K	Approved to serve Pre-K		
K	150	150	150
1	150	150	150
2	150	150	150
3	150	150	150
4	150	150	150
5	150	150	150
6	150	150	150
7	150	150	150
8	150	150	150
9	150	150	150
10	150	150	150
11	150	150	150
12	150	150	150
TOTAL	**1950**	**1950**	**1950**

If you have questions, please contact Allie Cobb, Director, Office of Charter and Renaissance Schools at Allie.Cobb@doe.nj.gov.

Sincerely,

Dr. Lily Laux
Commissioner

LL/AD/ac
c: Ambrose F. Duckett, III
Joseph Howe
Robert Gregory
Allie Cobb
Nicole Kane
Joseph Zarra
Leonard Luciano
Roger León

Education

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Marion P. Thomas Charter School Comes Off State Probation Nearly Two Years Early

Superintendent Angela Mincy led turnaround efforts



By Therese Jacob

Published September 28, 2026 at 6:24 PM

Last updated September 28, 2026 at 7:14 PM

NEWARK - When Angela Mincy arrived at Marion P. Thomas Charter School in July 2021, she inherited a school struggling with academics, chronic absenteeism, staff instability and other problems serious enough that the state would eventually place the Newark charter school on probation for five years.

Mincy said she understood what she had been hired to do as superintendent.

"I was brought in to turn the school around, and that's what we did," Mincy said.

Now, the state says the turnaround has gone far enough to end the school's probation nearly two years ahead of schedule.

New Jersey Commissioner of Education Lily Laux informed the school's Board of Trustees in a Sept. 11 letter that the state Department of Education (DOE) was immediately removing Marion P. Thomas Charter School from probation after determining that it had successfully carried out a state-required remedial plan and demonstrated progress in academics, classroom instruction, organizational stability, attendance and school culture.

The decision marks a significant milestone for one of Newark's oldest charter schools — and for Mincy, whose efforts to remake Marion P. Thomas were chronicled by TAPinto Newark in June as the school posted gains in academics, graduation rates, attendance and school culture.

As a Black-founded and Black-run charter school of historical significance, Marion P. has support from high-profile leaders in the city, including Mayor Ras Baraka.

"I want to congratulate Superintendent Angela Mincy and the entire Marion P. Thomas Charter School Village on having its probationary status lifted by the State of New Jersey," Baraka said.

"Angela and I go back to our days as young educators here in Newark, so I know personally how deeply she cares about our children and this city," the mayor said. "Marion P. Thomas has put in the work, made measurable progress and shown what is possible when a school community remains focused on its students. This is a proud moment for the Marion P. Thomas community, and I look forward to seeing them continue to build on this progress for Newark's children."

Mincy said she'll take the accolades, but she isn't letting up now.

"We have absolutely come a long way — that is indisputable, and you can see it in the student achievement numbers," Mincy said. "But I'm not resting. We can do even better and we will. We have laid the foundation to do that."

A School Facing Serious Problems

The state's assessment of Marion P. Thomas looked considerably different three years ago. In February 2023, the DOE renewed the school's charter but placed it on probation through June 2028 after finding that it was not operating in compliance with its charter, state statutes and regulations.

Among the state's concerns were weak performances on standardized tests, inconsistent instructional quality across classrooms and campuses, high rates of chronic absenteeism and lack of student discipline, and organizational instability that hindered improvement.

"The school was placed on probation shortly after I arrived," Mincy said. "Obviously, the writing was on the wall that the school would be placed on probation."

What followed was not a quick fix.

For several years, school leaders submitted updates on a remedial plan targeting student performance, instructional rigor, student engagement, absenteeism, discipline and organizational stability.

Mincy said the school zeroed in on data-driven instruction, real-time coaching and professional development for teachers. Mincy also focused on ensuring that she developed the teachers that were willing to do what it takes to ensure an increase in student achievement.

The results began showing up in the numbers.

English language arts proficiency on the New Jersey Student Learning Assessments climbed from 23.84% in 2021-22 to 38.70% in 2024-25. Math proficiency increased from 7.16% to 14.15% over the same period.

Marion P. Thomas still has work to do: its proficiency rates remain below statewide averages, according to the DOE. But the school's 2024-25 ELA proficiency exceeded that of its approved sending district, Newark Public Schools, while its math proficiency rate had nearly doubled from 2021-22.

The state also saw changes beyond test scores.

Chronic absenteeism, which had reached 49.2% in 2021-22, dropped to 14.4% by 2024-25. Out-of-school suspensions declined from 9% to 7%. And after four onsite probation visits beginning in 2023, state reviewers found that instruction across the school's campuses and grade levels demonstrated a common standard of high-quality instruction.

Changing the Adults, Too

Mincy said turning around the school also required changing its adult culture.

Teacher retention increased from 62% in 2022-23 to 81% in 2024-25 — a statistic the state specifically cited in its decision to lift probation.

When great teachers stay, it lets you know that you are really on the right track," Mincy said. "Some left because their commitment wasn't to children, and that's fine. We now have the right team to keep moving forward."

Mincy said she concluded early in her tenure that some working at the school didn't share the same priorities.

"Upon my arrival, not everyone was as focused on student achievement as they needed to be," Mincy said. "Our commitment should always be centered on the students and families we serve. Since then, we've strategically invested in staffing to build the higher caliber of educators that we have today."

For some longtime staff members, Mincy's approach took time to understand.

Anabela Sousa-Bernardino, the high school's lead Culinary Arts Teacher, recalled Mincy telling staff early in her tenure, "If this isn't right for you, go be happy."

"Over time, I realized it wasn't about pushing people away, it was about ensuring that everyone is committed to the mission and willing to do the work our students deserve," Sousa-Bernardino said.

Chanelle Wolfe, interim principal of the high school, said Mincy's expectations are rooted in her connection to Newark.

"As someone born, raised, and still serving in Newark, she is unwavering in her belief that our students deserve the same high-quality educational opportunities and outcomes as children in any community," Wolfe said.

Related Content

[How Angela Mincy Led a Turnaround at Marion P. Thomas Charter School]

[Marion P. Thomas Charter School Turns 25, Unveils Yearlong Fundraising Campaign]

[Marion P. Thomas Charter School Board Fails to Renew Contract with Charter Management Organization]

Our Keynote Speaker



Ms. Calynn Darius



Sankofa Academy



Small with a BIG impact!

Summer Professional Development

Calynn's Speech



THANK YOU

FOR LISTENING!