

Hello  
April



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# MPTCS

## STUDENT SUPPORT NEWSLETTER



*Preparing student's for life's challenges and opportunities.*



**MPTCS**  
STUDENT SUPPORT  
NEWSLETTER



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# Welcome

As we welcome the arrival of spring, we embrace a season defined by renewal, growth, and new beginnings. Warmer days, longer sunlight, and fresh energy remind us that this is a time to spring ahead, both as a community and in our work supporting students.

In just a few short weeks, our students will have the opportunity to demonstrate all they have learned this year on the NJSLA. This moment is not just about an assessment—it is about confidence, preparation, and ensuring every student is ready to show what they truly know.

That is why our Student Support Team (SST) plays such a critical role in this season. While their work may not always be academic in nature, it is foundational. When students feel supported, regulated, and confident, they are far more prepared to access their learning and perform at their highest level. Simply put, the mind must be right for the work to shine. Our SST ensures that happens every day.

As we close out Women's History Month, we also take a moment to honor the countless women—past and present—who have shaped our schools, supported our students, and led with strength, compassion, and resilience. Their impact continues to inspire the work we do and the futures we help build.

Finally, as we approach Spring Break (*April 3rd–April 12th*), we encourage all members of our community to take this time to rest, recharge, and reconnect. Whether it's spending time with family and friends or simply slowing down, this pause is essential as we prepare for a strong finish to the school year.

Wishing all who celebrate a joyful and peaceful Easter, and to everyone, a refreshing and energizing spring season ahead.



Mr. Shankar  
Executive Director, Operations & Performance

# HIGH SCHOOL

marion p. thomas  
★  
CHARTER SCHOOL



# High School Campaign Highlights



# ALL ABOUT SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING HIGH SCHOOL



## ANTI-VAPING CAMPAIGN

This past month, the MPTCHS village ran a two-week campaign to educate and inform our scholars about the negative effects of vaping. This anti-vaping campaign brought our village together in ways that portrayed unity, honesty, and a sense of self-awareness.



**SPREADING  
AWARENESS**



**PEER  
FEEDBACK**



**INFORMATIONAL  
CLASSROOM LESSON**



MS. DOUGLAS, HIGH SCHOOL, SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER



SCAN ME

# THE FAMILY ZONE



HIGH SCHOOL FAMILY & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

## COURTROOM:

MPTCS AP Government  
Students Experience Justice in  
Action



On March 4, Dr. Shaw and our AP Government & Politics students had an incredible opportunity to visit the Essex County Family Courthouse and the Historic Courthouse in Newark.

Students met seven judges, heard about their personal journeys into the legal profession, and observed a live court hearing. Two of the judges were born and raised in Newark, offering powerful stories that helped students see connections between their own communities and careers in law.

The visit concluded with a tour of the Historic Courthouse, where students explored its stunning architecture, art, and history.

We're proud of our students for asking thoughtful questions and representing our school so well. Thank you to the Ombudsman Office staff, Judge Rosenberg, and Mr. Valcourt for helping make this meaningful experience possible.



So proud of our HS students for organizing a wonderful Iftar dinner to honor the spirit of Ramadan with our school family



Spring break is April 3-10. Use the time to plan day trips with your teen. Check out [VisitNJ](#) for ideas.



Keep abreast of all that is going on at MPTCHS. [Click here](#) to review the April 2026 calendar.



# COLLEGE & CAREER

COLLEGE TOURS & INFO SESSIONS

UPCOMING



Fairleigh Dickinson University - Info session 4/14/26

Bloomfield College of MSU Tour 4/22/26

Decision Day 2026- May 1<sup>st</sup>



SCHOOL COUNSELORS:

MRS. FREDERICKS, MS. WILSON, AND MS. YOUNG





**BREAKING NEWS**

**MARION P. THOMAS CHARTER HS HAS SURPASSED THEIR SCHOLARSHIP GOAL OF 4.5 MILLION DOLLARS!**

**COMMUNITY SERVICE & UPCOMING SCHOLARSHIPS**

**UPCOMING COMMUNITY SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES**



**UPCOMING SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINES**

AMERICAN WATER IMPACT 3/31

RISING LEADER SCHOLARSHIP 4/12

NEW JERSEY NEW YORK SCHOLARSHIP 4/14

FIREHOUSE SUBS SCHOLARSHIP 4/15



MS. YOUNG, SCHOOL COUNSELOR



# SANKOFA ACADEMY



# HIGHLIGHTS: FAMILY, LEARNING, SEL & COMMUNITY

## SANKOFA ACADEMY



FROM OUR YOUNGEST LEARNERS TO OUR RISING LEADERS, SANKOFA ACADEMY IS IN FULL BLOOM —PRE-K THROUGH 2ND GRADE SCHOLARS ARE GROWING, THRIVING, AND SHINING EVERY DAY.

At Sankofa Academy, our scholars are learning to bloom from the inside out. Through our SEL lesson, “*Feelings and Flowers*,” students explored how every petal represents a different emotion—reminding us that all feelings, even the big and messy ones, are a meaningful part of who we are.

Scholars brought this lesson to life by drawing themselves as flowers, illustrating the many emotions they experience, and courageously sharing their creations with their peers. From Pre-K to 2nd grade, our scholars continue to grow in empathy, self-awareness, and confidence—truly flourishing in every way.



MRS. STAMPS-MOORE, SANKOFA ACADEMY  
MANAGER OF OPERATIONS & CULTURE



# VILLAGE SPORTS



Marion P. Thomas  
CHARTER SCHOOL



# SPORTS

# NEWS

FROM THE VILLAGE ATHLETIC  
DEPARTMENT



## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Students, Parents, and Staff,

As we start the spring sports season, I want to acknowledge all of the student-athletes and coaches for putting in the work in the off season in preparation for this season. Our varsity track & field team is poised to have a successful season with many returning athletes. Both PAC and STEAM are looking forward to successful seasons from their Volleyball and Soccer Teams. This will be PAC Academy's first season in 6 years with a Volleyball and Soccer Team. We will continue to grow our sports programs with the support of our school community. Please visit our network's website for sports schedules and updates. I look forward to seeing our school community members at our seasonal sporting events. If you have questions, I can be reached at [rmickens@mptcs.org](mailto:rmickens@mptcs.org).

Best,  
Rashon Mickens, Executive Director of Athletics



### ATHLETIC REQUIREMENTS

The Marion P. Thomas Charter School Athletic Department has administered a new behavior and academic contract for athletes eligibility. For more information on the newly adopted athletic eligibility requirements you can visit the [Marion P. Thomas Athletic Page](#).

### SPORTSMANSHIP CORNER

Thank you for the support of our amazing fans and school community. Your cheers and encouragement help motivate our student-athletes. Remember, it's not just about winning—let's keep the spirit of sportsmanship alive!

### GET INVOLVED!

We're always looking for volunteers to help with events, coaching, team parents, and more. If you'd like to get involved, please contact Executive Director Mickens at [rmickens@mptcs.org](mailto:rmickens@mptcs.org). Thank you for supporting Marion P. Thomas athletics! We're excited for a great month ahead. Let's go, Tigers!

APRIL 2026



**PAC ACADEMY**



# PAC Academy Campaign Highlights



# THE FAMILY ZONE



PAC FAMILY & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

MARCH @ PAC

MASTER P & ROMEO VISIT PAC ACADEMY TO TALK ABOUT STRANGER DANGER



[MASTER P & ROMEO VISIT PAC!!](#)  
[CLICK HERE TO SEE VIDEO](#)



MISS SHIRLEY FOUND  
HER TWIN!!



PRESIDENT SLATER



CELEBRITY READ

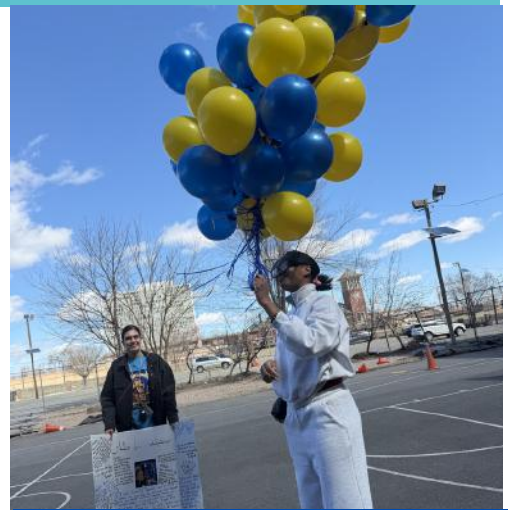
# THE FAMILY ZONE



**PAC** FAMILY & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT  
MARCH @ PAC



OPEN HOUSE FOR NEW PARENTS



REMEMBERING MAKAI

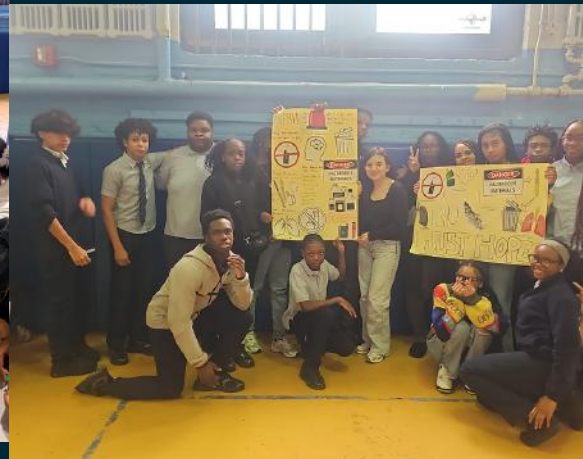


SCIENCE NIGHT!!



IFTAR CELEBRATION

# ALL ABOUT SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING PAC ACADEMY



THIS MONTH, OUR UPPER ACADEMY SCHOLARS ACTIVELY PARTICIPATED IN OUR ANTI-VAPE CAMPAIGN. SCHOLARS DEMONSTRATED ENGAGEMENT AND CRITICAL THINKING WHILE PARTICIPATING IN POWER TALKS WITH OUR PROFESSIONAL STAFF ABOUT THE CONSEQUENCES OF VAPING.



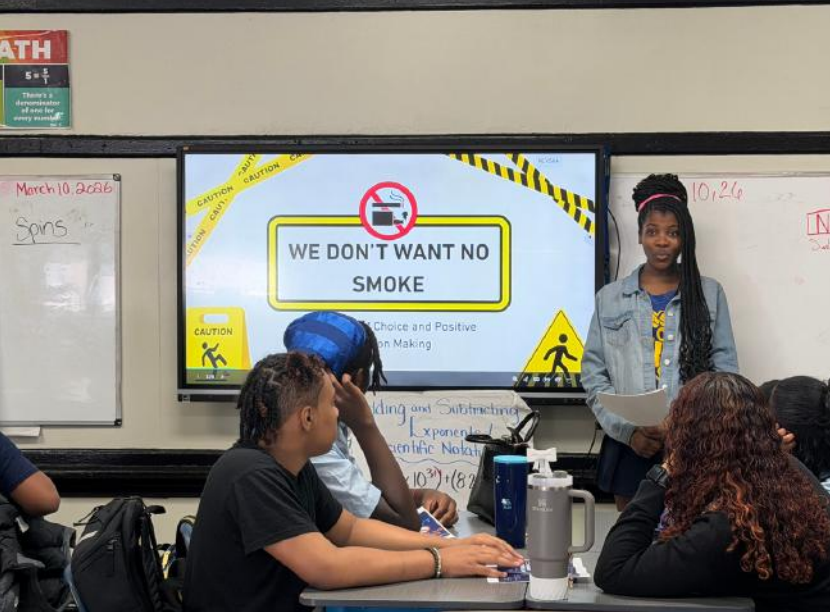
MRS. STACKHOUSE, PAC ACADEMY, SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER



# **STEAM ACADEMY**



# STEAM Academy Campaign Highlights



Student Support Services

# THE FAMILY ZONE

STEAM FAMILY & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



READ ACROSS  
AMERICA  
LITERACY NIGHT AND  
CELEBRITIES READERS  
DAY!



TIGER  
OF  
THE  
MONTH  
BREAKFAST  
CELEBRATION

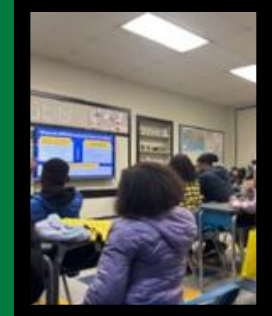


OPEN HOUSE!  
WELCOME OUR TO FUTURE  
NEW FAMILIES

PI DAY!  
FAMILIES THANK  
YOU FOR ALL THE  
DONATIONS

NJIT  
COMPETITIONS

TRANSITION DAY!  
KINDERGARTEN  
HERE I COME!



PARENT OF THE MONTH



PARENT UNIVERSITY  
PARENT WORKSHOP  
WAS A SUCCESS 57  
FAMILIES  
ATTENDEND

# ALL ABOUT SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING STEAM ACADEMY



The Power of Choice and Positive Decision Making

This month, the STEAM community came together to host a two-week campaign focused on educating and informing our scholars about the harmful effects of vaping. This initiative fostered a strong sense of unity across our village, while encouraging honesty, reflection, and greater self-awareness among our scholars.

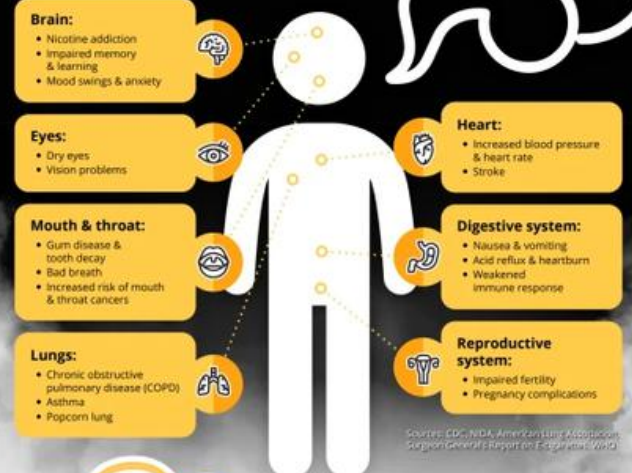
## It's Not Just Water Vapor



MS. VALDEZ, STEAM ACADEMY, SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER

## Consequences of Vaping on the Body

Vaping, often mistakenly perceived as a harmless alternative to smoking, poses significant risks to various organs and systems throughout the body. Here's a comprehensive overview of its concerning effects:



Sources: CDC, NDA, American Lung Association, Surgeon General's Report on E-cigarettes (2016)



Scan QR code or visit [www.beaverton.k12.or.us/vaping-awareness](http://www.beaverton.k12.or.us/vaping-awareness) for vaping awareness resources.



**Need help to quit?** Ask your counselor to be referred to your School Substance Use Specialist.

# **RESOURCES**

# 2NDFLOOR

SUPPORT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE. ANYTIME. ANYWHERE.

## App Launch Social Media Toolkit

The new 2NDFLOOR app is here! 2NDFLOOR is a free, confidential, and anonymous mental health support app available 24/7/365 to New Jersey youth and young adults.

2NDFLOOR provides a forum in which adolescents are empowered to take control of, and improve, their emotional, mental, physical, psychological, and social well-being. Now in its 20th year of existence, 2NDFLOOR remains New Jersey's only multi-service program geared toward 10-to-24-year-olds. The new 2NDFLOOR app consists of **one-on-one chat and call functions** that allow youth to connect to counselors any time, day or night, to discuss any issue that they are facing. Also included is an **online community message board**, in which youth can anonymously post and respond to messages on a wide array of mental health topics.

Please join us in spreading the word!



**GIVE YOURSELF A  
SECOND  
WHEN YOU NEED  
SOMEONE TO  
TALK TO**

**2NDFLOOR**  
SUPPORT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE. ANYTIME. ANYWHERE.

**DOWNLOAD THE APP FOR 24/7 SUPPORT:**  
Chat anonymously with professional counselors about whatever is on your mind with the all new 2NDFLOOR™ app or by texting or calling us at 888.222.2228. It only takes a second to get help.





# WHY ATTEND PARENT WORKSHOPS?

Research reveals that when parents are engaged in their child's education, it fosters a thriving learning environment that leads to improved academic outcomes and well-rounded personal growth.

By attending our diverse range of workshops, seminars, and interactive sessions, you'll gain valuable insights into:

- Effective communication strategies with educators and your child.

- Building a supportive and nurturing home learning environment.

- Understanding modern teaching methods and curriculum trends.

- Navigating challenges such as social media and mental health awareness.

- Strengthening parent-child relationships through shared learning experiences.

- How to successfully advocate for your child.



**MPTCS**  
STUDENT SUPPORT  
NEWSLETTER

# SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR NEWSLETTER TEAM

## CENTRAL OFFICE

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