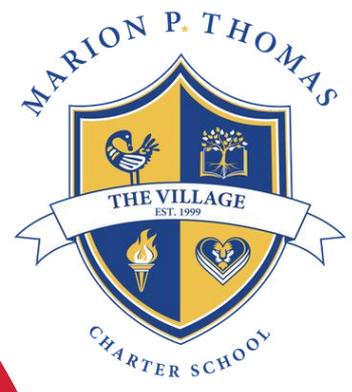


December



2025

MPTCS
STUDENT SUPPORT NEWSLETTER



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



MPTCS
STUDENT SUPPORT
NEWSLETTER



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Welcome Message

Thank You!

Family Zone

The 2nd Floor App

All About Social Emotional Learning

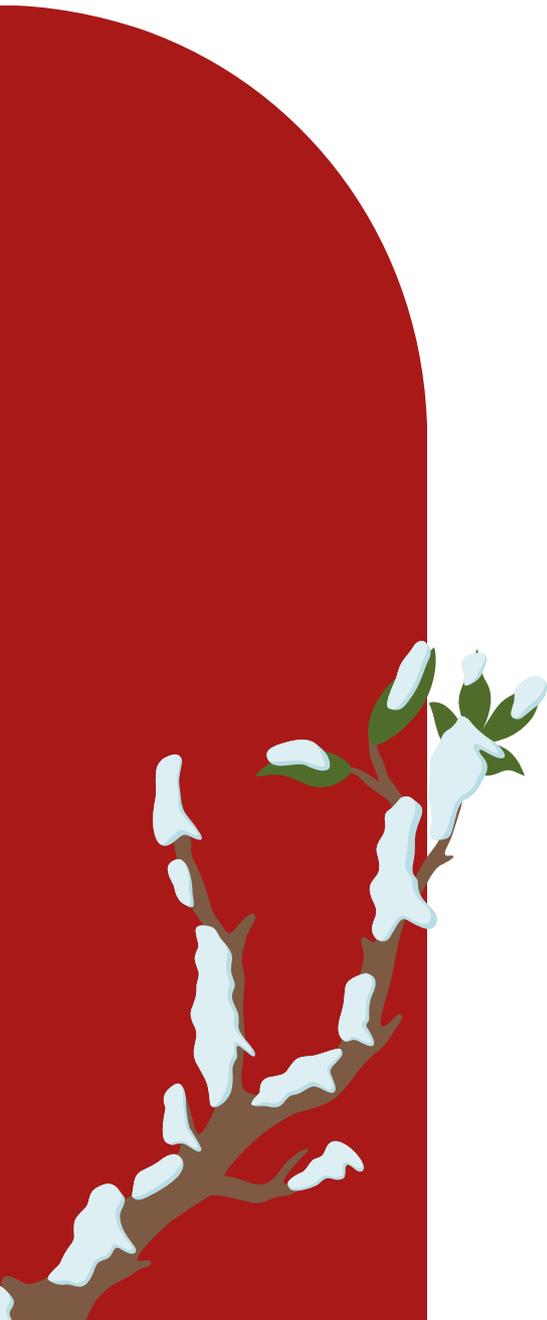
College & Career

Coming Soon

Village Sports News

Why Attend Parent University/Workshops

Special Thanks & Contact Information





Welcome

As December arrives, we're excited to share moments from across our schools that highlight our scholars' engagement, strong family partnerships, and growing college and career readiness.

A Season of Joy

This month invites connection and celebration. We appreciate our students and staff whose daily commitment creates a warm and welcoming place to learn. Together, we close the 2025 year with pride and gratitude.

Supporting Our Scholars

Students took part in meaningful awareness events this fall that encourage kindness, responsibility, and care for themselves and others.

Family Engagement

Parent Workshops, also known as Parent University, are in progress, giving families helpful tools to support learning. Our new Family Engagement Council is forming, and anyone interested can reach out to their FACE Specialist.

College & Career Readiness

College fairs and career-focused experiences continue to guide students as they map out their next steps.

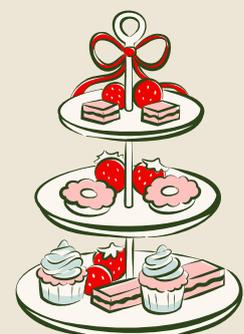
Looking Ahead

Winter break is just around the corner, a wonderful time to rest, celebrate, and enjoy loved ones.

Thank you for being part of Preparing Students for Life's Challenges and Opportunities!



Ms. Jean-Louis
Supervisor of Student Support





IT TAKES A VILLAGE!



THANK YOU IMMENSELY FOR YOUR INVALUABLE CONTRIBUTIONS THAT MADE OUR THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE A RESOUNDING SUCCESS FOR OUR FAMILIES!

THE FAMILY ZONE



HIGH SCHOOL FAMILY & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

HS STUDENTS MAKE AN IMPACT AT NEWARK CITY HALL

Newly elected councilwoman Amina Bey hosted a "Councilperson for the Day" event at City Hall for our aspiring politicians and future leaders.

NO PHONE ZONE



The HS will implement a new **no phone policy** when returning in January 2026. Many studies reveal that cell phones and electronic devices hamper learning. More info will be shared via text and email.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Newark has a lot to offer during the holiday season. Plan an event with the family or encourage your teen to plan an outing the entire family can enjoy, or encourage them to plan a movie night or special meal they prepare.



CENTRAL WARD COUNCILWOMAN AMINA BEY HOSTED COUNCILPERSON FOR THE DAY FOR OUR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS



MAKE PLANS TO ATTEND NJPAC'S ANNUAL KWANZAA EVENT ON 12/20

DECEMBER 2025

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

[CLICK HERE](#) TO KEEP ABREAST OF WHAT'S HAPPENING IN DECEMBER



VISIT NEWARK'S WINTER VILLAGE FOR A DAY OF FUN

THE FAMILY ZONE



PAC FAMILY & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT COUNCIL

Exciting start! The first Parent Engagement Council Meeting was a hit! Parents were engaged and ideas were flowing, and the energy was palpable! We discussed ways to boost involvement, support student success, and build a stronger school community.

MULTICULTURAL POTLUCK

The Multicultural Potluck was a hit! We had an amazing turnout of parent volunteers, and the food was absolutely delicious! From savory dishes to sweet treats, every bite was a celebration of our school's diversity.

TIGER TIME FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

It's Movie Night! Join us in the gym on December 17th at 5pm for a cozy screening of The Grinch! Bring a chair and a blanket for a comfy movie experience. And don't forget to wear your UGLY SWEATER for a festive twist! Hot cocoa will be flowing! All families welcome!



Family Movie Night

"The Grinch"
12/17/25

Click here for more details.



THE FAMILY ZONE



SANKOFA FAMILY & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT COUNCIL, READING CELEBRATION, FOOD DRIVE, & FRIENDS-GIVING

This month at Sankofa Academy was filled with joy, connection, and purpose! We launched our Family Engagement Council with excited families, led by Mrs. Stamps Moore, who learned fun and meaningful ways to get involved. Our Reading Celebration lit up the building as families and community members shared their love of books by reading with and to our amazing scholars. We also came together to collect food for our district-wide food drive, showing our strong commitment to combating food insecurity in our community. Our Friends-Giving was full of delicious food, laughter, family, friends, and cozy fall vibes. It was the perfect way to kick off the Thanksgiving season. Join us next month for more joy and togetherness! ♥ Check out [December's Calendar](#) for more.



MRS. BURRELL PARTICIPATING IN THE READING CELEBRATION IN SECOND GRADE!



THANK YOU, FAMILIES, FOR DONATING TO OUR DISTRICT WIDE FOOD DRIVE!



MS. SMITH COLORING WITH OUR SCHOLARS AT THE FRIENDS-GIVING!



MR. & MRS. BROWN-WILLIAMS AT THE FAMILY ENGAGEMENT COUNCIL MEETING!

THE FAMILY ZONE



STEAM FAMILY & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

STEAM FAMILY ENGAGEMENT COUNCIL

Thank you for the families who attend on this night. Your collaboration and support to be part of the council was a testimony that It Takes A Village to Raise a Child. All your ideas and concerns were really helpful to move our Academy to another level.

PERFECT ATTENDANCE CELEBRATION

Thank you families! for helping us to celebrate our October perfect Attendance Celebration. You are the pillar of this event 204 scholars were able to enjoyed a delicious Apple cider, French toast Bagels and raffles. Keep it up!

PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCE

What an Amazing night to see all our families!
Getting Involved with the teachers setting goals, and plan strategies for your child's learning at school and home was definitely a success. Thank you for commitment and support to our school. December 4th



MS. ROMAN, MS. ALCANTARA, MS. MARLIN, MS. WILLIAMS, EARLE



MOVING UP! PARENT MEETINGS

Getting ready ahead of the time is so important for our families. Thank you Pre-Kindergarten, Kindergarten and 8th grade families for attending on December 2nd for the Informational parent meeting. Below links for the presentations

[2025 2026 STEAM 8th grade Moving Up informational Parent Meeting](#)

[2025 2026 STEAM PK and Kindergarten Moving Up informational Parent Meeting](#)

DON'T FORGET

Chit -Chat with Principal Silvestre Dec 9th

Miracles in December, December 16th

Operation Scholar, December 18th

Coat Drive, December 18th



DECEMBER CALENDAR



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.

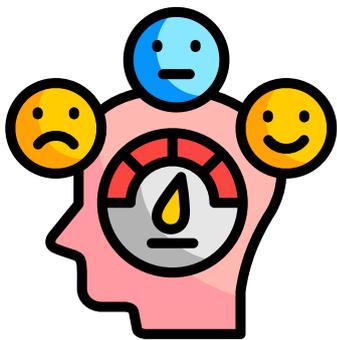


ALL ABOUT SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING HIGH SCHOOL

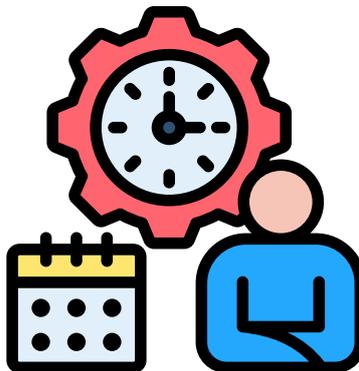


CREATING AN ENVIRONMENT WHERE SELF AND SOCIAL AWARENESS ARE A PRIORITY

As the High School Social Worker, I make it a priority to help students in understanding their own feelings and emotions, as well as interpreting others emotions in order to strengthen relationships. Weekly groups are held in order to assist the scholars with relationship bulding and emotional awareness!



**SELF/SOCIAL
AWARENESS**



SELF-MANAGEMENT



RELATIONSHIP SKILLS

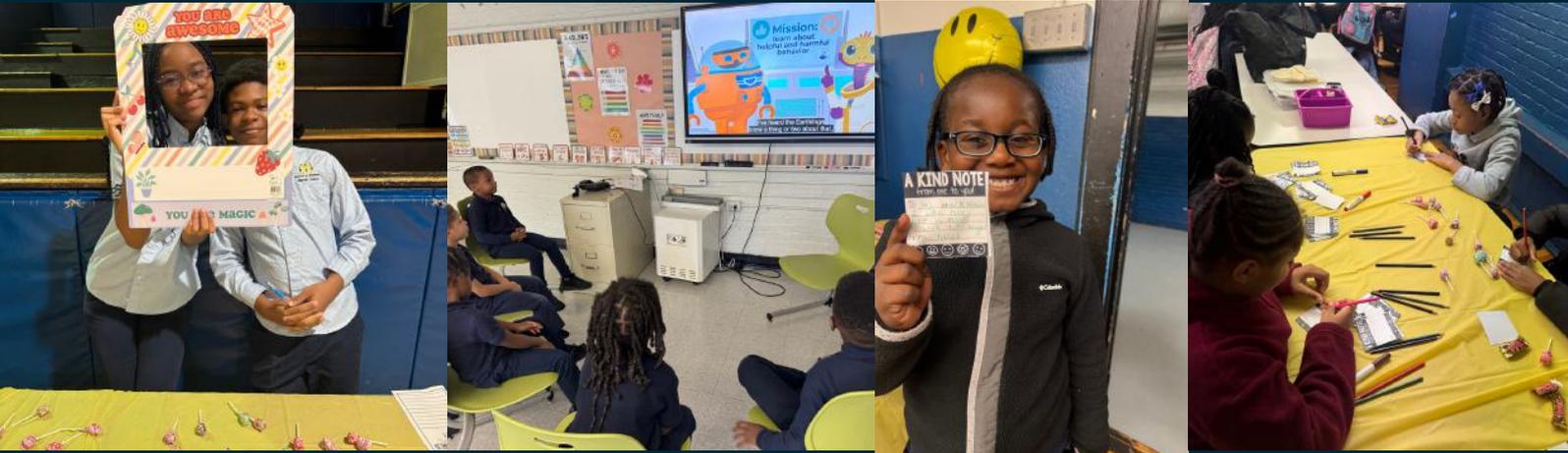


MS. DOUGLAS, HIGH SCHOOL, SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER



SCAN ME

ALL ABOUT SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING PAC ACADEMY



WHEN WE UNDERSTAND OURSELVES AND OTHERS, OUR WHOLE SCHOOL GROWS

At PAC, we focus on social-emotional learning because it helps us understand our feelings, handle stress, and get along with others. When we know how to manage our emotions and communicate better, school feels easier and more positive. It's basically learning skills that help us in class, with friends, and in everyday life.



**TAKE 10 MINUTES
FOR YOURSELF**



**BUDGET WITHOUT GUILT
CHOOSE MEANINGFUL,
NOT EXPENSIVE.**



**GIVE YOURSELF GRACE
THE HOLIDAYS CAN BE
EMOTIONAL. ALLOW YOURSELF
TO FEEL WHAT YOU FEEL, NO
JUDGMENT.
CELEBRATE SMALL WINS!**



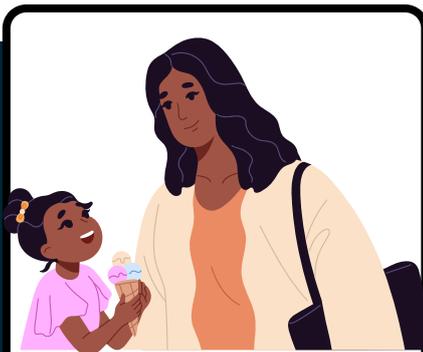
MRS. STACKHOUSE, PAC ACADEMY, SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER

ALL ABOUT SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING SANKOFA ACADEMY



BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN PRACTICALITY AND SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

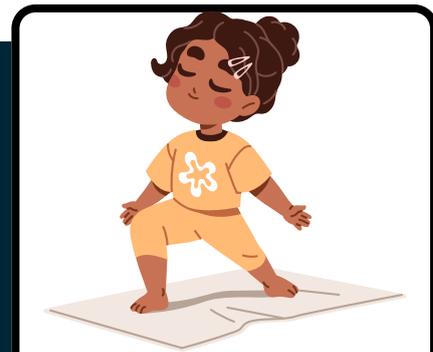
At Sankofa Academy, we joyfully bridge learning and social-emotional growth every day! In PreK, our littlest scholars are building lifelong skills through the Calm Down Corner, where they learn fun and effective ways to manage big feelings. Across all classrooms, students are practicing being “loud and proud” as they share their thinking with confidence and courage. Our Kindergarten through Second Grade scholars also dive into ReThink lessons three times a week, where they learn, talk, and create together—building empathy, problem-solving skills, and strong relationships that help them shine in and out of the classroom!



**TALK ABOUT
FEELINGS DAILY**



**PRACTICE TURN-
TAKING AND SHARING**



**CREATE CALM-DOWN
ROUTINES**

FAMILIES PLAY A POWERFUL ROLE IN SUPPORTING THEIR SCHOLARS' SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL GROWTH. SIMPLE HABITS AT HOME MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE, SUCH AS TALKING ABOUT FEELINGS EACH DAY TO HELP CHILDREN NAME AND UNDERSTAND THEIR EMOTIONS, PRACTICING TURN-TAKING AND SHARING DURING PLAYTIME, AND CREATING CALM-DOWN ROUTINES LIKE DEEP BREATHING OR QUIET CORNERS WHEN EMOTIONS FEEL BIG. THESE SMALL BUT MEANINGFUL ACTIONS HELP SCHOLARS BUILD STRONG SELF-REGULATION, COMMUNICATION, AND RELATIONSHIP SKILLS RIGHT AT HOME.



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

ALL ABOUT SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING STEAM ACADEMY



EMOTIONS MATTER. RELATIONSHIPS MATTER. AT STEAM, WE BUILD BOTH.

At STEAM, we prioritize social-emotional learning because it helps us better understand our feelings and build positive relationships with others. When we learn to manage our emotions and communicate effectively with our peers, we create a stronger, kinder, and more supportive school community.



REST IS NECESSARY!



MOVE YOUR BODY



MINDFUL BREAKS



MS. VALDEZ, STEAM ACADEMY, SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER



COLLEGE & CAREER

COLLEGE FAIR

The MPTCS High School College and Career Fair was a tremendous success, featuring over 30 colleges and trade schools from across the region. The event provided students with a valuable opportunity to explore higher education options, learn about various career paths, and connect directly with representatives from colleges and trade schools. The purpose of the fair was to inspire and inform students as they plan their futures, helping them make informed decisions about their education and career aspirations.

MRS. FREDERICKS, SCHOOL COUNSELOR





COLLEGE & CAREER

INSTANT DECISION DAYS & SCHOLARSHIPS

11/13/25 Felician University --

13 Acceptances & \$1,088,000 in Scholarships

12/1/25 Bloomfield College of MSU -

9 Acceptances & \$178,000 in Scholarships

UPCOMING

12/16/25 Stockton University

1/26/26 Ramapo College

College and Career Exposure \$2,159,500

Let's go TIGERS we still moving!!!



MS. WILSON, SCHOOL COUNSELOR



COLLEGE & CAREER

COMMUNITY SERVICE & UPCOMING SCHOLARSHIPS

UPCOMING COMMUNITY SERVICE OPPORTUNITY

Become a Student Champion



UPCOMING SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINES

SMART Scholarship Program: 12/5

Burger King Scholars: 12/15

Equitable Excellence Scholarship: 12/18



MS. YOUNG, SCHOOL COUNSELOR



MARION P THOMAS CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL

COLLEGE & CAREER EXPOSURE



FALL 2025 COLLEGE TOURS

- OCTOBER 20, 2025 – ROWAN UNIVERSITY
- OCTOBER 21, 2025– PRINCETON UNIVERSITY
- OCTOBER 28, 2025 – UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA
- NOVEMBER 5, 2025 – FELICIAN UNIVERSITY
- NOVEMBER 11, 2025– STOCKTON UNIVERSITY
- NOVEMBER 19, 2025– KEAN UNIVERSITY



FALL 2025 INSTANT DECISION DAY

- NOVEMBER 13, 2025– FELICIAN UNIVERSITY
- DECEMBER 3, 2025– BLOOMFIELD COLLEGE OF MSU
- DECEMBER 16, 2025 – STOCKTON UNIVERSITY
- JANUARY 21, 2026 – RAMAPO COLLEGE
-



FALL 2025 INFO SESSIONS

- OCTOBER 17, 2025 – SWARTHMORE COLLEGE
- NOVEMBER 3, 2025 – BERKELEY COLLEGE
- NOVEMBER 17, 2025 – NJCU
- DECEMBER 10, 2025 – NJIT
- DECEMBER 17, 2025 – RAMAPO COLLEGE



FALL 2025 COLLEGE & CAREER FAIR

- OCTOBER 24, 2025 – MPTCHS COLLEGE FAIR
- OCTOBER 9, 2025 @4:30 PM – VIRTUAL FAFSA INFO [SESSION](#)
- NOVEMBER 20, 2025– MALCOLM BERNARD HBCU FAIR
- DECEMBER 18, 2025– FAFSA NIGHT (IN PERSON)



SIGN UP LINKS WILL BE POSTED IN THE STUDENT GOOGLE CLASSROOM!

COMING SOON

A youth violence prevention program from



1. **LOOK** *for* **WARNING SIGNS & THREATS**
2. **ACT IMMEDIATELY** *take it SERIOUSLY.*
3. **SAY SOMETHING** *to a TRUSTED ADULT*
OR SUBMIT AN ANONYMOUS TIP

Scan this QR code



or Text TIP to 79775



MOBILE APP



1-844-572-9669



SAYSOMETHING.NET



Marion P. Thomas
CHARTER SCHOOL

SPORTS NEWS



FROM THE VILLAGE ATHLETIC
DEPARTMENT



THIS MONTH'S HIGHLIGHTS



- Message from the Executive Director of Athletics
- Opening Games
- Team Spotlight
- Athletic Requirements
- Sportsmanship Corner
- Get Involved!



DECEMBER 2025

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Students, Parents, and Staff,

The energy is building as we look forward to an action-packed winter sports season! Our student-athletes have been working hard, we're thrilled to see them compete in basketball, track & field, cheerleading, and more. Remember, whether you're in the stands or on the field, your support continues to make a difference! Let's continue to promote a positive environment for our coaches and scholar-athletes.

Go Tigers!

Best,

Rashon Mickens, Executive Director of Athletics



OPENING GAMES

VARSIITY BOYS BASKETBALL

Our varsity boys basketball team open the season against Malcolm X Shabazz H.S. The game will be played at Malcolm X Shabazz H.S. at 7pm.

VARSIITY GIRLS BASKETBALL

Our varsity girls basketball team opens the season against Hillside H.S. The game will be played at Hillside H.S. at 4:30pm

TEAM SPOTLIGHTS

IN-DOOR TRACK & FIELD

Our In-Door Track & Field will be competing in major meets across the state of NJ this season. This year's team is experienced with with upperclassmen runners that have dedicated themselves to off season conditioning in training. We look forward to a successful In-Door Track & Field season.



VARSIITY CHEERLEADERS

Kudos to our varsity cheerleaders as they have worked extremely hard during the off season to prepare for the upcoming basketball season, and cheer competitions. Our cheerleaders will be competing in a national cheer competition later this school year.



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

We look forward to the support of our fans amazing fans and school community. Your cheers and encouragement help motivate our 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

Thank you for supporting Marion P. Thomas athletics! We're excited for a great month ahead. Let's go, Tigers!



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

**Vanessa
Jean-Louis**



Supervisor of Student Support
vjeanlouis@mptcs.org@mptcs.org

**Michele
Griffin**



Managing Director Community Relations
mgriffin@mptcs.org

**Rashon
Mickens**



Executive Director
Athletics & Community Relations
rmickens@mptcs.org

FAMILY & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TEAM

**Ana
Munoz**



Family and Community Engagement (FACE)
Specialist
STEAM Academy
amunoz@mptcs.org

**Lawana
Powell**



Family and Community Engagement (FACE)
Specialist
PAC Academy
lpowell@mptcs.org

SANKOFA STUDENT SUPPORT

**Zhada
Stamps-
Moore**



Manager of Operations & Culture
Sankofa Academy
zstamps@mptcs.org

SCHOOL COUNSELORS

**Koa
Thomas-
Fredericks**



School Counselor
High School
kthomas1@mptcs.org

**Tammy
Wilson**



School Counselor
High School
byoung@mptcs.org

**Brianna
Young**



School Counselor
High School
byoung@mptcs.org

SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKERS

**Arianna
Douglas**



School Social Worker
High School
adouglas1@mptcs.org

**Aja
Stackhouse**



School Social Worker
PAC Academy
astackhouse@mptcs.org

**Lucia
Montes-
Valdez**



School Social Worker
STEAM Academy
lmontes-valdez@mptcs.org