



STEAM's PARENT OF THE MONTH  
 MRS. ANITA RAMSEY



# MPTCS

## STUDENT SUPPORT NEWSLETTER

2026		FEBRUARY					
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	



# Welcome

Hello Village!

February has arrived, bringing a meaningful season of connection, compassion, and celebration. This month invites us to honor love in its many expressions, within our families, friendships, classrooms, and community. We also recognize the vital role of family engagement, as strong partnerships between home and school help create supportive environments where students can grow and succeed.

February also marks Black History Month, a time to reflect on the lasting impact and achievements of African Americans throughout history. We extend special appreciation to educators of color whose passion and commitment continue to create inclusive, affirming spaces where all students can thrive.

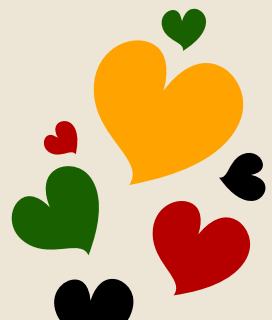
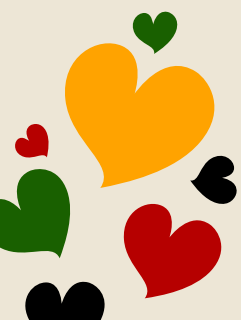
This issue also shines a spotlight on National School Counseling Week as we celebrate our outstanding School Counselors at our High School — Mrs. Fredericks, Ms. Wilson, and Ms. Young, for their unwavering support and dedication to our students. Inside, you'll also find scholarship highlights, school calendars, Family Engagement Council spotlights, important reminders, and exciting news from across our campuses. Be sure to check out the hyperlinks throughout the newsletter for even more information.

Have an intentional month!

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

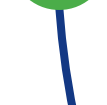


Ms. Jean-Louis  
Supervisor of Student Support





**MPTCS**  
STUDENT SUPPORT  
NEWSLETTER



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FEBRUARY  
**21<sup>ST</sup>**

# ONE DAY. FOUR SCHOOLS. YOUR CHILD'S FUTURE.

Join us for the **Marion P. Thomas** All Schools Fair and discover what makes our Village unique.

- Meet school leaders from all four MPTCS schools
- Apply for the 2026-2027 school year
- Free parking available

**Sankofa Academy**  
PreK-3

**STEAM Academy**  
PreK-8

**PAC Academy**  
PreK-8

**High School**  
9-12



Marion P. Thomas Charter High School  
125 Sussex Ave., Newark, NJ

**10:00 AM - 2:00 PM**

**RSVP  
to attend:**

**[mptcs.org/enroll](https://mptcs.org/enroll)**

## Each One, Bring One: Grow Our Village

Help us expand our community by bringing a friend or family member to the All Schools Fair to experience the heart of Marion P. Thomas Charter School firsthand. Your voice is our most powerful tool. Please share what makes our village special and show others why they should become a part of our school community. [RSVP Today!](#)

**EACH ONE  
BRING ONE**



## **Your Story is Our Strength**

Every family has a unique reason for joining MPTCS, whether it's our caring teachers, our school culture, or the success of your scholars. Now is the time to share your story with others. We invite you to [register today](#) to speak or volunteer at our All Schools Fair, where your support and personal testimonial can inspire new families to find their home with us.



# SECURE YOUR SIBLING SEAT TODAY!

## Accepting Applications for Siblings for the 26-27 school year!

We're gearing up for the upcoming school year, and we don't want any siblings to miss this opportunity! **Do you have a child ready for PreK3, PreK4, or Kindergarten?** We also have availability in 1st through 9th grade. **Apply now at [www.newarkcommonapp.org](http://www.newarkcommonapp.org) and rank Marion P. Thomas Charter School as your #1 choice to secure their seat for the 26-27 school year.** Siblings are given priority preference.



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## Eligibility Requirements



- PreK: Applicants must be 3 or 4 years old by October 1.
- Kindergarten: Applicants must be 5 years old by October 1.
- Availability in 1<sup>st</sup> through 9<sup>th</sup> grades

We look forward to welcoming new and returning families to our school community. Thank you for being a valued part of the MPTCS Village!

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## Family & Friends Referrals

Love being part of the MPTCS Village? Help us grow! If you have family members or friends who are looking for a school, we encourage you to share this opportunity with them. Encourage them to visit [mptcs.org/enroll](http://mptcs.org/enroll) to find out how they can join our Village.



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## We're here to help

Have questions? Or, need support completing your application? Reach out to the **Recruitment & Enrollment Team** at [enroll@mptcs.org](mailto:enroll@mptcs.org).

# Congratulations!



## Family Engagement Council Newly Elected Leaders



**MS. JOHNSON**  
PRESIDENT



**MS. LEWIS**  
VICE PRESIDENT



**MS. MCLAURIN**  
FUNDRAISING  
CHAIR



**MS. WAY**  
SPECIAL EVENTS &  
OUTREACH  
COORDINATOR



**MS. GRIFFIN**  
FAMILY & COMMUNITY  
ENGAGEMENT  
SPECIALIST

If you are interested in joining the council, please contact, Ms. Griffin. Email: [mgriffin@mptcs.org](mailto:mgriffin@mptcs.org)

**Student Support Services**

# THE FAMILY ZONE



HIGH SCHOOL FAMILY & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

**CONGRATULATIONS**

JORGE LUIS JONATHAN

**NJDOE SEAL OF BILITERACY RECIPIENTS**  
AAPL QUALIFIERS - JANUARY 2026

DANIELA

**NJDOE SEAL OF BILITERACY RECIPIENTS**  
AP SPANISH QUALIFIER - JANUARY 2026

**KUDOS TO OUR HS SCHOLARS FOR EARNING THE NJDOE SEAL OF BILITERACY FOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AND TO OUR WORLD LANGUAGES & ESL LEADERSHIP FOR CHAMPIONING THIS INITIATIVE**

FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH

FEBRUARY 2020

S M T W T F S

February 2026 Events Calendar

**WHAT'S NEXT?**

**February Highlights**

- 2/11: Parent University Workshop: Stronger Conversations, Stronger Connections (5:30-6:15 PM)
- 2/12: Parent Teachers' Conference (1:30-4 PM; 5-7 PM)
- 2/19: Black History Month Showcase
- 2/21: All Schools Fair
- 2/26: Virtual Principal-Parent Meeting
- [Family Mental Health Resource](#)

CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL

School Counseling Department

4.5 MILLION

Top congratulations: \$ 120,000  
Financial aid: \$ 72,000  
General award: \$ 820,000  
Talent award: \$ 40,000  
Sports award: \$ 15,000  
Academic award: \$ 1,000  
Merit award: \$ 15,000  
Other award: \$ 116,000  
Total: \$ 1,300,000

Scholarships are pouring in! Watch Culture & Climate Specialist Robert James interview senior Shaniya about her wins as the Class of 2026 scholarships total soars past \$3 million. (see interview on Instagram).

# THE FAMILY ZONE



PAC FAMILY & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



We LOVE when NJIT stops by with goodies!



## February Calendar

Looking

Ahead

2/4/26

NJSLA Parent Meeting

2/12/26

PK-4<sup>th</sup> Grade VDay  
Family Jammy Jam

2/19/26

4th-8th Grade  
Lip Sync Showdown

2/20/26

Pre-K WOW Celebration  
Fashion Show

2/27/26

Stomping with the  
Big Dogs  
Divine 9 Presentation

EVERY  
DAY  
MATTERS

SCHOOL+YOU = SUCCESS

**DON'T  
FORGET!**

To turn in your  
Household  
Income Survey  
for Summer EBT  
Benefits

See Office Manager for more details

# Congratulations!



## Family Engagement Council Newly Elected Leaders



**MS. SLATER  
PRESIDENT**



**MS. ROBINSON  
VICE PRESIDENT**



**MS. MCCLENDON  
SECRETARY**



**MS. MCZORN  
FUNDRAISING  
CHAIR**



**MR. EBON  
SPECIAL EVENTS &  
OUTREACH COORDINATOR**



**MS. POWELL  
FACE**

If you are interested in joining the council, please contact, Ms. Powell Email: [lpowell@mptcs.org](mailto:lpowell@mptcs.org)

**Student Support Services**

# THE FAMILY ZONE



## SANKOFA FAMILY & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

This month, Sankofa Academy is building on the incredible momentum from December by continuing to create intentional, meaningful opportunities for families to be part of our scholars' learning experiences. With the support of our newly founded Family Engagement Council, we are actively planning a Black History Month celebration that will be just as exciting as it is informative—centered on culture, pride, and community. Families can also look forward to opportunities to support enrollment and recruitment for the 2026–2027 school year as we work together to grow the Sankofa family.

**Your presence matters, and we can't wait to continue this journey with you!**



# Congratulations!



## Family Engagement Council Newly Elected Leaders



**MRS. BROWN WILLIAMS**  
SPECIAL EVENTS AND  
OUTREACH COORDINATOR



**MRS. WYNTER DARIUS**  
FUNDRAISING CHAIR



**MRS. BURRELL**  
SECRETARY



**MRS. STAMPS MOORE**  
MANAGER OF OPERATIONS  
AND CULTURE

If you are interested in joining the council, please contact, Mrs. Stamps Moore. Email: [zstamps@mptcs.org](mailto:zstamps@mptcs.org)

**Student Support Services**

# THE FAMILY ZONE



**STEAM FAMILY & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

## CHIT-CHAT WITH PRINCIPAL SILVESTRE

We had a total of 31 families attending the zoom meeting.  
Thank you families!



Looking Ahead

**February 10th**  
**Chit Chat with Principal**  
**Silvestre at 9:15AM**

**February 11th Parent**  
**University Workshop**

**February 12th**  
**Parent and Scholar**  
**Dance from 5-7pm**

**2/2 -2/14**  
**Valentine's Candy**  
**Gram**

**February 19th**  
**Light Up the Lab**  
**/Student Council Event**  
**at 5:30PM**

**February 26th**  
**Black History Month**  
**Celebration**



**PARENT OF THE**  
**MONTH**  
**MRS. ANITA RAMSEY**

# Congratulations!



## Family Engagement Council Newly Elected Leaders



**EARLE, JANELLE**  
STEAM VICE-  
PRESIDENT



**ROMAN, MARIELY**  
STEAM SECRETARY



**BULLOCK, ASHLEY**  
STEAM SPECIAL EVENT AND OUTREACH  
COORDINATOR/STEAM FUNDRAISING  
CHAIR



**MUNOZ, ANA**  
FACE

If you are interested in joining the council, please contact, Ms. Ana Munoz. Email: [amunoz@mptcs.org](mailto:amunoz@mptcs.org)

### Student Support Services

# 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



## 9<sup>TH</sup> - 12<sup>TH</sup> GRADE SCHOLARS

All grade levels engaged in a Social-Emotional Learning lesson focused on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor App. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor App is designed to be a mental health support available to all New Jersey youth (10+) and young adults (up to age 24). Along with introducing the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor App, student assisted with the Coat Drive by providing and sorting coats for distribution.



MS. DOUGLAS, HIGH SCHOOL, SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER

# ALL ABOUT SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING

## PAC ACADEMY



7<sup>th</sup> grade scholars engaged in a Social-Emotional Learning lesson focused on understanding the difference between a fixed mindset and a growth mindset. Through discussion and reflection, they explored how shifting their thinking can help them approach challenges with confidence, learn from mistakes, and view setbacks as opportunities to grow. Scholars practiced identifying positive ways to elevate their thinking and support their personal and academic growth.



MRS. STACKHOUSE, PAC ACADEMY, SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER

# ALL ABOUT SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING SANKOFA ACADEMY



## **SEL IN ACTION: BUILDING POSITIVE CITIZENS AT SANKOFA**

This month at Sankofa Academy, our focus on citizenship is intentionally aligned with our Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) work. All students participated in a Citizen of Sankofa presentation designed to help scholars build self-awareness, social awareness, and responsible decision-making as they explore what it means to be a positive and valuable member of our school community. Through guided discussion and reflection, students examined key attributes such as kindness, safety, consideration, caring for others, respect, and responsibility, and how these skills support healthy relationships, emotional regulation, and a strong school culture. This experience reinforces our commitment to developing the whole child and empowering students to lead with empathy, accountability, and care in their daily actions.



**STUDENTS REFLECTED ON SAFETY AND RESPONSIBILITY AS KEY PARTS OF BEING A POSITIVE CITIZEN.**



**EVERY STUDENT PLAYS A ROLE IN SHAPING A CARING AND CONNECTED SCHOOL COMMUNITY.**



**SCHOLARS PRACTICED SOCIAL AWARENESS BY DISCUSSING HOW THEIR ACTIONS IMPACT OTHERS.**

Families play an important role in reinforcing these skills beyond the classroom by modeling empathy, encouraging respectful communication, and talking through real-life situations at home. Together, we can continue to nurture confident, caring leaders who carry these values wherever they go. ♥



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

# ALL ABOUT SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING STEAM ACADEMY



## MIDDLE SCHOOL SCHOLARS

During the month of January, our focus was on improving peer communication and strengthening responsible decision-making skills. Throughout SEL time, scholars reflected on their behaviors and identified areas of growth related to these topics. Through ongoing discussions and activities, scholars practiced using strategies to communicate effectively and make thoughtful choices. As a result, we have seen growth in their awareness and use of these tools, which will continue to support them moving forward.

## Family Mental Health Resource



Health   
is wealth



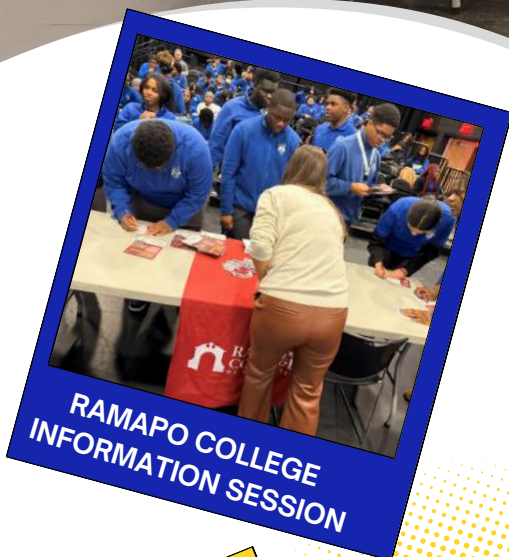
MS. VALDEZ, STEAM ACADEMY, SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER



# COLLEGE & CAREER

## RAMAPO UNIVERSITY INFO SESSION

Ramapo University representatives visited our high school to share valuable information with our students about their programs, campus life, and opportunities for higher education. The goal of their visit was to inspire and inform scholars about college options, encourage academic exploration, and help students plan for their future success.



MRS. FREDERICKS, SCHOOL COUNSELOR

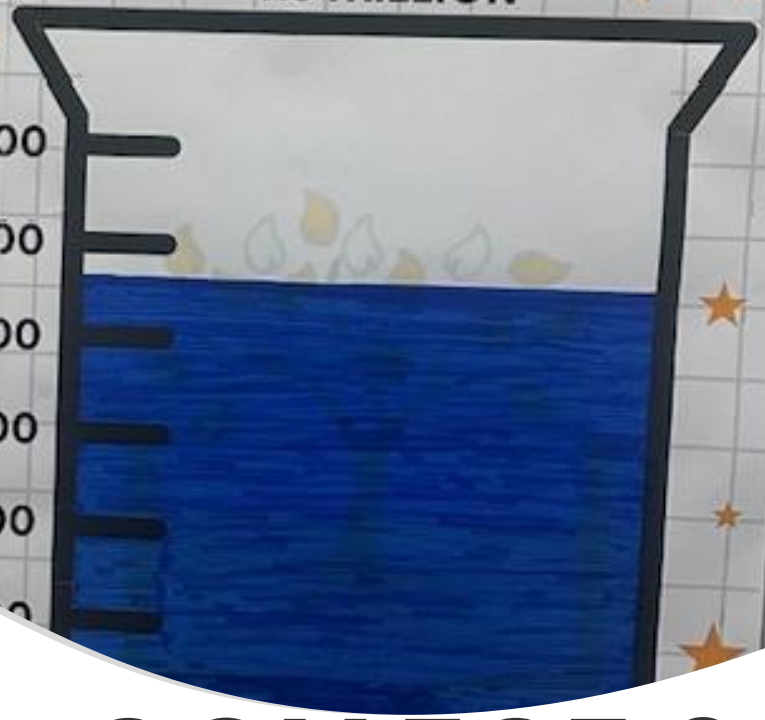
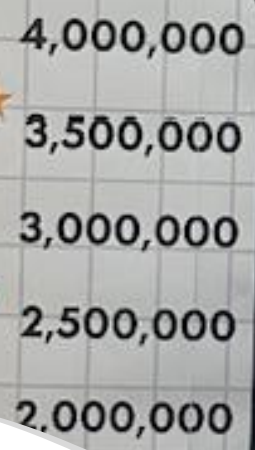




4.5 MILLION

**TOP CONTRIBUTORS**

- Shaniya Thomas: \$ 716,000
- Katherine Kolawole: \$ 712,000
- Briana Sims: \$ 503,700
- Travis Thornton: \$ 148,800
- Antwonette Biscombe: \$ 140,000
- Kiemarah Baker: \$ 90,000
- Iyga Delmas: \$ 72,000
- Susan Harris: \$ 72,000
- Goodness Nwakwe: \$ 72,000



# COLLEGE & CAREER

**INSTANT DECISION DAYS & SCHOLARSHIPS**

## UPCOMING

Ramapo University Instant Decision Day- 2/2



MS. WILSON, SCHOOL COUNSELOR





# COLLEGE & CAREER

## COMMUNITY SERVICE & UPCOMING SCHOLARSHIPS

### UPCOMING COMMUNITY SERVICE OPPORTUNITY

COAT DRIVE! Please donate any gently worn outerwear and coats to individuals in need during this wintry season! Please turn in all coats to Ms. Douglas for an hour of community service

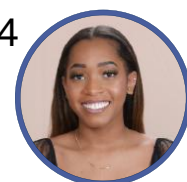
### UPCOMING SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINES

WM Four Corners Scholarship 1/29

Fred E. Aug Memorial Scholarship 2/1

GOYA Scholarship Program 3/3

NJ/NY First Generation Scholarship 4/14



MS. YOUNG, SCHOOL COUNSELOR



RAMAPO COLLEGE  
INFORMATION SESSION



RAMAPO COLLEGE  
INFORMATION SESSION



RAMAPO COLLEGE  
INFORMATION SESSION

# 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
- FEBRUARY 2, 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!**



Marion P. Thomas  
CHARTER SCHOOL

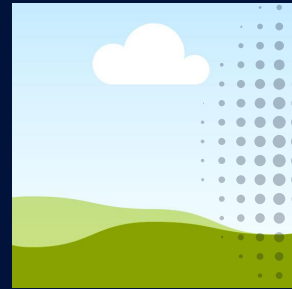
# SPORTS NEWS



FROM THE VILLAGE ATHLETIC  
DEPARTMENT



## THIS MONTH'S HIGHLIGHTS



- Message from the Executive Director of Athletics
- Sport Highlights
- Athletic Requirements
- Sportsmanship Corner
- Get Involved!

DECEMBER 2025

# MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Students, Parents, and Staff,



Our students-athletes have been working hard and competing in basketball and track & field. They are also working hard in the classrooms as well. Teachers, parents, coaches and student-athletes are working together to ensure our student-athletes achieve success academically with our newly adopted district wide academic requirements. Please see our district athletic website for more information. As always, your support with athletics is great appreciated.

Go Tigers!

Best,

Rashon Mickens, Executive Director

## SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS

### BOYS BASKETBALL

Our Varsity Boys have a record of 5-6. We have strengthened our schedule and compete against the more competitive programs around the state. They have a total of 11 more games and are looking to qualify for the state playoffs once again. Both STEAM and PAC boys basketball have played 4 games. Our PAC & STEAM Boys have each played one game on their season. They will play more games in the months of January and February. Please check our school district athletic website for sport schedules. Let's come out and show that Tiger Pride!!!

### VARSITY GIRLS BASKETBALL

Our Varsity Girls basketball recording their first win of the season last week as they defeated Abraham Clark High School. Our girls have 7 more regular season games to play. Our PAC girls basketball team will open their season up on Monday, February 2. Please come out to support our girls teams. Schedules are located on the district athletic website. Let's go Lady Tigers!!!

### INDOOR TRACK & FIELD

Our Varsity Track & Field Team has participated in two meets thus far. They have participated in two events thus far with the team showing promise. Their next event is February, 6 at the Armory in Jersey City. We wish each runner all the best during competition.

Let's go Tigers!!!



## **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](mailto: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.

# 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  
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**Rashon  
Mickens**



Executive Director  
Athletics & Community Relations  
rmickens@mptcs.org

## FAMILY & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TEAM

**Ana  
Munoz**



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

**Lawana  
Powell**



Family and Community Engagement (FACE)  
Specialist  
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## SANKOFA STUDENT SUPPORT

**Zhada  
Stamps-  
Moore**



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

## SCHOOL COUNSELORS

**Koa  
Thomas-  
Fredericks**



School Counselor  
High School  
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**Tammy  
Wilson**



School Counselor  
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**Briana  
Young**



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## 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**



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lmontes-valdez@mptcs.org