

FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions)

Q: What is a charter school?

A: Charter schools are independent public schools that provide an alternate educational option to parents and students. They were created to give educators and parents the freedom to innovate and develop successful teaching models to increase student achievement. Because a charter school is not managed by the local school district, it is free to design the environment it believes will best serve students' needs. Charter schools don't charge tuition and don't require any entrance exams or interviews. All children who live within a charter school's district, including children with special needs, are eligible to attend a charter school on a space-available basis.

Q: Why should I choose Marion P. Thomas Charter School (MPTCS)?

A: MPTCS offers a seamless educational experience from "crayons to college," giving Newark residents the opportunity to stay within one school community throughout their primary and secondary educational journey. We are deeply rooted in our community and offer students a place to grow.

Q: What makes MPTCS unique?

A: Marion P. Thomas Charter School is the largest minority-led, independently-operated free public charter school in Newark, NJ. MPTCS shares the following key attributes: focus on college and career readiness; highly structured learning environment; and committed faculty and staff.

Q: What is MPTCS's educational philosophy?

A: By every means necessary, our mission is to become a 21st century village that is responsive to the needs of students, parents, and the Newark community at large, where scholars are college and career ready, globally aware, and fully equipped to lead in an evolving society.

Q: What are some of MPTCS's innovative programs?

A: College and Career Readiness: Opening in the Fall of 2015 The new Marion P. Thomas Charter High School (MPTCHS) will feature 38 classrooms, fully equipped state-of-the-art science labs, media and technology rooms, individual and group music

lesson rooms, a black box theater and a fully equipped state-of-the-art culinary learning center with a service and educational dining facility. Instruction will focus on college and career readiness while integrating a concentration on the arts.

College Visits for All: Marion P. Thomas Charter High School sponsors three college visits per student, per year, for all high school students. By the time they are seniors, students who began MPTCHS in 9th grade will have the opportunity to visit 12 colleges through this program. The College Visits program helps instill the goal of college attendance in every MPTCHS student while also providing them the opportunity to explore different collegiate environments and make informed decisions about higher education.

Prekindergarten: MPTCS was the first charter school in the city of Newark to offer parents of four-year-olds the opportunity to enroll their children in a quality preschool program. It is free of charge—in a safe, stimulating, fun environment that provides beginning students with a strong educational foundation, preparing them to succeed from Kindergarten and beyond.

SELECT (Scholars Electing Lifelong Education Character and Transformation) Single Gender Program: Originally established to address the achievement gap for African-American boys, as well as bolster the performance of girls in science and math, this gender-based program employs teaching methods and activities that are designed for the different ways in which boys and girls acquire and process knowledge. Offered to students in Grades 2 through 5, the culture and curriculum of SELECT focuses upon core values, good scholarship, social skills and expanding the experiences of the students.

Q: How do I enroll my child in MPTCS?

A: Prospective families may apply to MPTCS in two ways: by logging into the Online Enrollment Center at www.newarkenrolls.org, or by completing a paper application. You can pick up a copy of the paper application at any participating school, and can return the application to any school. Be sure to list Marion P. Thomas Charter School as your top choice on the application.