Dear Families and Friends of MPTCS,

It’s hard to believe that we’ve reached the conclusion of this historic year at Marion P. Thomas Charter Schools. As we enter a new era on July 1st, while celebrating our 20th Anniversary, I want to take a moment to share my gratitude with you for allowing me to be a part of this historic movement.

It has been a pleasure to serve as the new Superintendent/CEO of our schools since November 5, 2018. I’ve learned so much about our amazing village; the incredible scholars and families in our school communities, and the talented educators who serve them every day. During my first 100 days on the job, I attended celebratory events, visited dozens of classrooms, and had the opportunity to listen and observe, in awe of the achievements and brilliance of our scholars.

Our 6-month Strategic Priority Plan, Village Forward, aims to catapult our schools into successful futures and was inspired by the hopes and dreams of our scholars, families, and educators who serve them conveyed during my Learn, Look and Listen Tour. I’m assured we’ll take the village to new heights when we align our practices, speak a common language, have a shared vision for success, and focus on what and how our scholars are learning. Their vast potential and accomplishments in areas like academics, sports, music, and the arts; make me confident our scholars are better positioned for fruitful futures and our schools are on the move.

I wish everyone a well-deserved restful, safe, and productive summer and I encourage all parents and guardians to ensure your child is reading and engaged in some form of educational activity during these months. Research shows that students who do not participate in learning activities during the summer months can experience significant learning loss.

To counter this, our city offers amazing summer programs and resources. A few I recommend reviewing, if you haven’t already, are as follows:

- **Newark Thrives** has great resources for families to access: [http://www.newark-thrives.org/](http://www.newark-thrives.org/)
- All **MPTCS** students are eligible for summer programs offered by the **Newark Public Schools**. Here are a few programs:
  a. **Summer Plus and Summer School**: Grades 3-8: [http://www.nps.k12.nj.us/summerprograms/](http://www.nps.k12.nj.us/summerprograms/)
  b. **Summer Sports Camp**: Grades 3-11 [https://www.nps.k12.nj.us/summerprograms/summer-sports-camps/](https://www.nps.k12.nj.us/summerprograms/summer-sports-camps/)
  c. **Summer Visual and Performing Arts Camp**: [https://www.nps.k12.nj.us/summerprograms/summer-visual-performing-arts-camp/](https://www.nps.k12.nj.us/summerprograms/summer-visual-performing-arts-camp/)

Lastly, I would like to congratulate our graduating seniors, the Class of 2019. We know you will represent us well as you move onto the next important phase of your lives.

To all of you who are back with us next year, our principals, teachers, and other school-based staff look forward to welcoming you back, refreshed, for what will be an exciting 2019-20 school year.

As you will often hear me say, I leave you with once more: **A better tomorrow starts with us today.**

Sincerely,

A. Robert Gregory  
Superintendent/CEO  
Marion P. Thomas Charter School