

The TIGER'S DEN MILK Newsletter

The Atlantic City School District



ROARING INTO THE NEW YEAR



Welcome Back Tigers

ISSUE AT A GLANCE

IGNITING ^{THE} SPARK HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2025-2026 KICKOFF CONVOCATION



WELCOME TO THE DEN! Meet Our Newest Staff



DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. SCHOOL COMPLEX (INTERNAL USE ONLY)

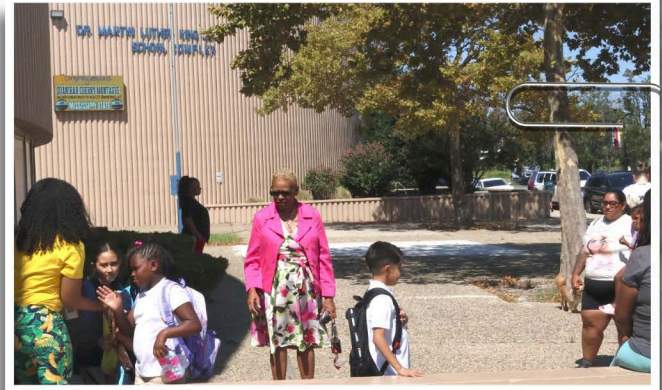
ROARING INTO THE NEW YEAR

SMILES, SPIRIT, AND A STRONG START TO THE SCHOOL YEAR

This week marked the exciting return to school at the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. School Complex, and the energy on campus was nothing short of inspiring.

On September 2nd, staff returned to prepare classrooms and take part in a day of fun and connection before welcoming students back.

Principal Jodi Burroughs and Vice Principal Cherise Burroughs led the way with a series of engaging icebreakers and team-building activities designed to strengthen bonds and set a positive tone for the year ahead.



By Thursday, September 4th, it was the students' turn to return—and they did so with big smiles and eager hearts. Families gathered early that morning to meet teachers and start the school year off right. The excitement was palpable as children walked through the doors, ready to learn, grow, and thrive.

It was an outstanding opening week, and we extend a heartfelt thank you to all the staff, families, and community members who helped make it such a success. If the first few days are any indication, the 2025-2026 school year is shaping up to be one filled with joy, discovery, and endless possibilities.



IGNITING THE SPARK

CONVOCATION HIGHLIGHTS



The Atlantic City Public School District officially welcomed the 2025–2026 academic year with its annual Fall Convocation on Wednesday, September 3, at Atlantic City High School. The district-wide event brought together educators, staff, and administrators for an energizing and inspiring morning centered on this year's theme: **"Moving with Purpose."**

Superintendent of Schools, **Dr. La'Quetta S. Small**, delivered a powerful keynote address, outlining the district's vision for the year ahead. Drawing from Stephen Covey's timeless book, *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*, Dr.

Small emphasized the importance of intentionality and excellence at every level of the school system.

"In order to have a highly effective district, you need highly effective schools," Dr. Small said. "And in order to have highly effective schools, you need highly effective people."

Each school in the district was assigned one of Covey's 7 Habits and asked to prepare a creative skit or presentation around it. Our school, alongside Venice Park School, was given the habit:

"Seek first to understand, then to be understood – Strengthen communication by listening before speaking."

Our staff and administrators rose to the occasion, creating an inspiring and thoughtful video that captured the essence of the habit. Lead actors **Latasha Hall** and **Cassandra Cherry Davis** delivered standout performances, bringing both humor and heart to the screen. The video concluded with a surprise musical moment, as **Vice Principal Cherise Burroughs** and **Ms. Hall** treated the audience to a soulful rendition of the 90's R&B classic *"Understanding"* by Xscape—much to the crowd's delight.



IGNITING THE SPARK

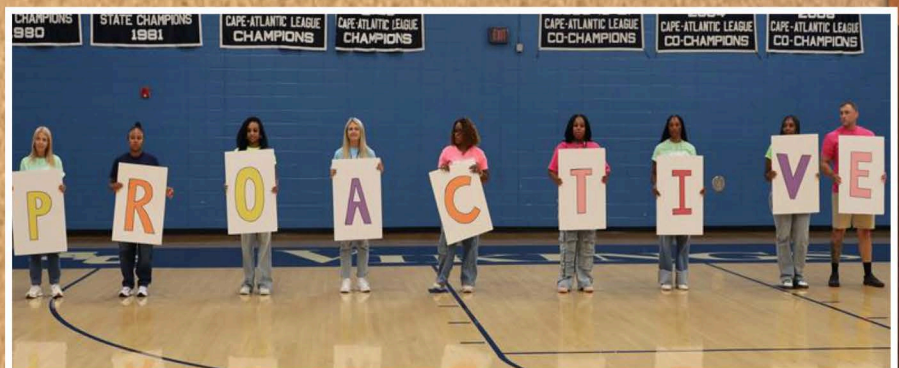
CONVOCAATION HIGHLIGHTS

Other schools in the district also showcased impressive interpretations of their assigned habits:

- **Be Proactive** – Take initiative to achieve results.
- **Begin with the End in Mind** – Set goals and create a plan for success.
- **Put First Things First** – Prioritize tasks and manage time effectively.
- **Think Win/Win** – Approach challenges with optimism and mutual success in mind.
- **Seek First to Understand, Then to Be Understood** – Strengthen communication by listening before speaking.
- **Synergize** – Collaborate to achieve stronger results.
- **Sharpen the Saw** – Invest in self-care and rejuvenation.

Throughout the year, all schools in the Atlantic City district will be integrating these seven habits into their daily culture—not just in classrooms, but also in leadership, planning, and operations. Dr. Small reminded everyone that these habits aren't just tools for students—they are essential to building a thriving, united school district.

The 2025–2026 Convocation was more than just a gathering; it was a celebration of purpose, collaboration, and the shared commitment to excellence. As we move into the school year, our staff is energized, aligned, and ready to move forward—together—with purpose.



MEET THE NEW FACES OF MLK



On behalf of all of us at The Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. School Complex, we are proud to extend a heartfelt welcome to the newest members of our educational family!

Please join us in welcoming:

Pictured above (left to right):

Top Row: Debra Szubrowski, Aubrey Barnes, Hope Bernstein, Patricia Pace

Bottom Row: N'ayiana Tolbert, LaTasha Hall, Roman Schwoebel, Jennifer Smith

We are thrilled to have each of you join our team and bring your unique talents, passion, and dedication to our school community. Your presence strengthens our commitment to educational excellence and student success.

Here's to a great school year ahead—together, we will continue to inspire, empower, and make a difference.

Welcome aboard!

NEW FACES OF VENICE PARK



A Warm Welcome to Erin Watson!

Please join us in welcoming the newest educational staff member at Venice Park School

— **Erin Watson!** (Pictured)

We're excited to have you as part of the team and can't wait to see the great things you'll accomplish.

Good luck, Erin — we hope you have a fantastic year!

FROM MLK TO UPTOWN: BRIA DAYS BEGINS A NEW CHAPTER



This year, we say a heartfelt farewell to one of our most valued team members, Catherine "Bria" Days. Bria has accepted an exciting new opportunity as the Vice Principal of Uptown School Complex. While we are sad to see her go, we are incredibly proud of her accomplishments and thrilled for what lies ahead. Bria has been an integral part of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. School Complex family, and her dedication, passion, and leadership have left a lasting impact on our students, staff, and community. Her warmth and energy will be deeply missed in our halls. Though this goodbye is bittersweet, we know that she will bring the same excellence and heart to her new role. Everyone at MLK wishes Bria continued success and happiness in this next chapter. She will always have a home here with us.

SUMMER SCHOOL RECAP

STEM, STAGE, AND SUMMER

This summer, the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. School Complex Summer Program found a temporary home at New York Avenue School due to ongoing construction at our building. While the location changed, the quality and excitement of the program remained stronger than ever.

Thanks to the collaboration between both school communities, students enjoyed a summer full of hands-on learning, creativity, and fun. Our robust STEM program engaged students across all grade levels: our youngest learners explored the basics of coding using Kubo Robots; students in grades 3–5 discovered architectural principles and the laws of motion by designing and building LEGO-style roller coasters and structures; and our oldest students in grades 7 and 8 took to the skies—learning the principles of flight while constructing and testing their own high-tech drones.

Meanwhile, creativity soared in our Visual and Performing Arts (VPA) Program, where students worked hard all summer preparing a thrilling pirate-themed musical. From memorizing lines and building stage sets to delivering an unforgettable performance for family and friends, our young performers truly stole the show.

In addition to STEM and the arts, all students focused on sharpening their math and language arts skills to stay on track academically through the summer months.

The 2025 MLK Summer Program, hosted at New York Avenue School, was a resounding success. We thank everyone—students, staff, and families—who helped make it an enriching and unforgettable experience!

