

Scholars Portfolio

Literacy, Numeracy

WHERE WE ARE: MNPS has earned two consecutive years of a Level 5 growth rating – the highest rating possible from the state of Tennessee. This type of growth is earned by implementing rigorous curriculum in all our classrooms at all tier levels through our *Literacy Reimagined* and *{math}*[®] Signature Initiatives. However, in a district serving historically marginalized communities, we know that we need to seek out additional opportunities, beyond classroom instruction, to meet our students where they are and grow them into shining scholars, we know they are.

WHERE WE ARE GOING: To this end, MNPS has created rigorous personalized learning experiences for students in three primary out-of-school-time venues.

- **Accelerating Scholars (High Dosage Tutoring):** This is the district's signature high-dosage, personalized tutoring program. We are leading the nation by setting a gold standard for this type of high-dosage, high-impact tutoring. In this model, students who need assistance in literacy or numeracy instruction receive a best-practice 90 minutes of tutoring per week, broken into either two or three sessions, in groups with no more than four students, with trained tutors using a flexible curriculum aligned to the district's core instruction. In alignment to best practice, Accelerating Scholars tutoring is conducted during the school day as much as possible. Accelerating Scholars is available in nearly all of our traditionally district run schools with an average of 4,500 students participating each semester. Research shows this model can be the most transformative educational intervention to increase student achievement producing, on average, an additional three to 15 months of additional learning.
- **Enriching Scholars (Saturday Enrichment):** Enriching Scholars is a specific program to support the students at our schools with targeted designations from the Tennessee Department of Education, including priority, recently exited priority schools, and Targeted Support and Intervention (TSI) schools, among others. In this program, we offer enrichment and mentoring experiences to these students on Saturdays throughout the school year. All content is aligned to our core curriculum and designed to provide additional engaging learning opportunities. After piloting the program in the 2022-2023 school year, Enriching Scholars is now available at 50 different sites with nearly 30 students attending each site 1-2 times a month.
- **Promising Scholars (Summer Instruction):** Promising Scholars is our signature approach to addressing summer learning loss. For four consecutive weeks each summer, we offer enriching learning opportunities available for all MNPS students in any

grade level. All instruction is aligned to our core curriculum and adapted to ensure students are having fun while learning valuable instructional content. Our results show that Promising Scholars is an effective strategy in addressing learning loss as participants had better results on the reading and numeracy assessments given early in the 2023-2024 school year than those students who didn't participate. We have grown this program into a signature strategy to develop our students.

MEASURABLE GOALS:

- 7,000 students are enrolled in high dosage tutoring for SY 23-24.
- 50% of students who participate in the Scholars Portfolio will meet or exceed their individual growth projections on FastBridge.
- A majority of students, tutors and parents will report satisfaction with Accelerating Scholars supports through surveys.
- Expand Enriching Scholars to our zoned high schools for the 23-24 school year.

AT A GLANCE

- **Challenges:** Personalized pathways and supports to address missed learning and learning loss are needed to make sure each student is known, supported and academically on-track.
- **Opportunities:** Partner to create and provide high-quality extended learning opportunities through research-based models that offer instruction aligned to our core curriculum
- **Outcomes:** Improved literacy and numeracy outcomes
- **Partnerships:** Higher-education institutions, extended learning providers, and nonprofit partners

INITIATIVE LEADS:

Sarah Chin, *Chief of Strategy*

Dr. Elisa Norris, *Interim Chief of Student Support Services*

Renita Perry, *Chief of Innovation*