

# MONTCLAIR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

22 VALLEY ROAD ~ MONTCLAIR, NEW JERSEY 07042

[WWW.MONTCLAIR.K12.NJ.US](http://WWW.MONTCLAIR.K12.NJ.US)

PHONE: 973-509-4010



---

**Superintendent of Schools**

**Jonathan Ponds, Ed.D.**

### **Superintendent Introduces New Equity Initiative – Project Alpha**

Dear Families, Caregivers and Staff;

We are delighted to share news about the successful launch of a significant equity initiative in partnership with the members and mentors of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Alpha Alpha Lambda Chapter. The District is currently piloting this powerful mentorship program called **Project Alpha** at Renaissance Middle School and Montclair High School.

Project Alpha offers students at both middle and high school levels guidance and support from male role models. It is a collaborative effort designed to provide education, motivation, and skill-building on crucial topics such as responsibility, relationships, goal setting, and mentorship for middle school and high school males.

Workshops and informational sessions are conducted by the Brothers of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., and focus on:

- **Personal Growth:** Mentors will work closely with students to help them discover their strengths, set goals, and develop essential life skills.
- **Academic Excellence:** Help with academic guidance, study strategies, and subject-specific support to ensure that our students reach their full academic potential.
- **College and Career Readiness:** Help students explore their interests and plan for post-graduation pursuits, whether that be college, vocational training, or entering the workforce.
- **Emotional and Social Support:** A safe and supportive space for students to discuss any challenges they may face, from peer pressure to stress management.

We're excited about the opportunities and positive impact Project Alpha will bring to our students. This collaboration underscores our District's dedication to providing comprehensive support.

The administrators from the pilot schools were eager to comment. Renaissance Principal

Maria Francisco said, "We are thrilled to work with Alpha Phi Alpha. The feedback from students has been overwhelmingly positive, and they eagerly anticipate the upcoming session next month." "I am very excited about this partnership as it will provide the opportunity to help empower our students to reach their full potential, both academically and personally," said high school Principal Jeff Freeman.

Interested students can speak to their grade level administrator or school counselor. Project Alpha has asked that we keep groups to 15-20 students in order to maximize the effectiveness of each session.

I want to thank Board Member Phaedra Dunn who was instrumental in introducing this opportunity to the District. Thank you for your continued support as we strive to offer enriching and beneficial programs for all our students.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Jonathan Ponds