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**Family Handbook**

**2025-2026**

**LaTisha Cotton, Principal**

**Nichele Holder, Assistant Principal**

**Cheryl Williams Parent Coordinator**

**432 Monroe Street**

**Brooklyn, NY 11221**

**718-834-6939 • (Fax) 718-574-8501**

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**Dear PS 44 Families,**

Welcome to the 2025–2026 school year at **P.S. 44 Marcus Garvey Magnet School of Engineering and Design**! September marks a time of fresh beginnings—rekindling connections with old friends and warmly welcoming new members into our community. Whether this is your first year with us or you are returning, we are thrilled you are part of the PS 44 family.

Our school is guided by five core values that shape our culture and daily practices:

* **Belonging:** We create a welcoming community where students, staff, and families feel connected, supported, and valued.
* **Understanding:** Our curriculum emphasizes empathy and cultural awareness, helping students appreciate diverse perspectives and respect each other’s experiences.
* **Integrity:** We instill honesty, responsibility, and ethical behavior in our students, preparing them to be thoughtful and trustworthy citizens.
* **Leadership:** We encourage students to take initiative, work collaboratively, and develop their leadership skills through classroom activities, school programs, and community service.
* **Dare to Dream:** We inspire our students to dream big, set ambitious goals, and pursue their passions with confidence and determination.

We believe that success is built through strong partnerships between home and school. Your involvement—whether through the PTA, classroom activities, or school events—enriches our community and strengthens the support network for every child. Together, we share the responsibility of ensuring each student reaches their highest potential.

This year, we will continue to provide rigorous and engaging instruction in ELA, mathematics, STEM, and the arts, while integrating **project-based learning** through our engineering and design magnet program. We are also committed to fostering a safe, inclusive environment by incorporating **Restorative Justice practices** and social-emotional learning to help students thrive academically and personally.

We have an exciting calendar of events, including **Family First Fridays**, PTA meetings, assemblies, monthly family workshops, and special celebrations. We hope to see you often and encourage you to take an active role in school life.

**School Hours:**

Information about the School Settlement Association After School Program will be shared when available.

On behalf of the entire staff at PS 44, thank you for entrusting us with your child’s education. We look forward to a year filled with learning, growth, and memorable experiences for every student.

**Sincerely,**Latisha Cotton  
Principal  
P.S. 44 Marcus Garvey Magnet School of Engineering and Design

**P.S. 44 Mission Statement**

**“Our mission is to provide a safe and nurturing environment that develops the talents of all students. This is done through collaborative planning and the implementation of innovative teaching practices. We recognize that our students must be prepared to live and work in a world that may not even exist yet. As learners and future industry leaders, they must be able to communicate effectively and think critically to create a world without boundaries!”**

Principal Cotton’s Vision for PS 44

At PS 44, we believe every child is born with brilliance, creativity, and the capacity to lead. Our vision is to cultivate a school community where students are empowered to explore their identities, express themselves through the arts and sciences, and engage deeply with the world around them.

We are committed to:

* Equity and Excellence: Ensuring that every student receives a high-quality education that honors their culture, voice, and potential.
* Innovation and Inquiry: Leveraging our Engineering and Design Maker Space to foster hands-on learning, creativity, and problem-solving across disciplines.
* Arts Integration: Embedding the arts into our curriculum to nurture imagination, confidence, and critical thinking.
* Community Partnership: Building strong relationships with families and local organizations to support student success and celebrate our shared heritage.

This year, we are proud to launch initiatives that highlight the legacy of leaders like Marcus Garvey, whose vision of empowerment and unity continues to inspire our work. Through collaborative projects, student exhibitions, and family engagement, PS 44 will be a place where history, innovation, and creativity come alive.

Together, we will ensure that every child at PS 44 is seen, heard, and prepared to thrive.

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**Important Dates 2025-2026**



**School Closed**

| **Date** | **Weekday** | **Event** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **September 23-24** | **Tuesday-Wednesday** | **Rosh Hashanah** |
| **October 2** | **Thursday** | **Yom Kippur** |
| **October 13** | **Monday** | **Indigenous People’s Day** |
| **October 20** | **Monday** | **Diwali** |
| **November 4 (No students)** | **Tuesday** | **Election Day** |
| **November 6 (Early Dismissal)** | **Thursday** | **Parent/Teacher Conferences** |
| **November 11** | **Tuesday** | **Veteran’s Day** |
| **November 27-28** | **Thursday-Friday** | **Thanksgiving** |
| **December 24-January 2** | **Wednesday-Friday** | **Mid-Winter Recess** |
| **January 19** | **Monday** | **Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day** |
| **February 16-20** | **Monday - Friday** | **Winter Recess** |
| **March 20** | **Friday** | **Eid al-Fitr** |
| **April 2-10** | **Thursday-Friday** | **Spring Recess** |
| **May 25** | **Monday** | **Memorial Day** |
| **May 27** | **Wednesday** | **Eid al-Adha** |
| **June 4 (No students)** | **Thursday** | **Anniversary Day** |
| **June 5 (No students)** | **Friday** | **Clerical Day** |
| **June 19** | **Friday** | **Juneteenth** |
| **June 26** | **Friday** | **LAST DAY OF SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS. All students are required to attend school, attendance taken, and to receive instruction.** |

**Parent Teacher Conference**

November 6, 2025 Thursday Fall Parent Teacher Conference

March 5, 2025 Thursday Spring Parent Teacher Conference

Student dismissal 11:30 am

**School Hours & Procedures**



**Morning Arrival Procedures**

* **Breakfast begins at 7:45 am in the cafeteria.** Students must enter through the Madison Avenue entrance to be escorted to the cafeteria.
* School begins at 8:20am. and ends at 2:40pm. daily.
* 3K and Pre-K students enter through Throop Avenue.
  + Parents will be expected to present a valid ID card to the safety agent when they enter the building.
  + Parents will be expected to sign-in when their child arrives in the classroom.
* Kindergarten - Grade 5 students enter through the Madison Avenue entry..

**Dismissal Procedures**

Kindergarten – Grade 5 students are dismissed from Madison Ave entrance. Teachers will bring students who are not picked up promptly to the main office. If you are late, please pick up your child there and sign the late pick-up log.

**Safety Drills:**

* ***Emergency Drills***:

Each school is required by the DOE to conduct 12 emergency drills each year, 8 evacuation and 4 lockdown drills. They are an important safety precaution. All these drills are held periodically to ensure that our students and staff are familiar with the procedures in case of an emergency. The teacher in each classroom will give instructions to the students.

* ***Lock-down Drills: This year each school is required by the DOE to conduct one lock-down drill***

During the lock-down drills an announcement will be made over the PA system stating that we are having a lock down. Your child’s teacher will lock the classroom door, cover the window on the door and move the children away from the door.

* ***Evacuation Sites***

In the event of a real emergency during which we need to evacuate the building, we will bring students to the following locations:

* + Primary: Arts and Letters United (PS 305) 344 Monroe Street Brooklyn NY 11221
  + Secondary: PS 256 114 Kosciusko Street, Brooklyn, NY 11216
  + Out of the area evacuation site, students will be brought to PS 308 616 Quincy Street Brooklyn, NY 11221.

In the event of a real emergency, families will be notified by the school regarding the proper procedures they should follow in order to keep their children safe. It is imperative that we have an updated and completed blue card. Please make sure that you update the blue card when any changes occur - children will not be released in an emergency unless the person is designated on the blue card. Please inform your child’s teacher when you have made changes.

**Student Attendance and Punctuality Policy**Attendance in school and remote is extremely important. Teachers look forward to seeing students in class every day. It is our expectation that each student has 92% or better attendance in school. ***Students who are absent excessively may risk not being promoted into the next grade.***Legal absences include absences for a medical condition/illness, religious observance, court appearance and clinic or social services appointments. However, students are still required to make up all the work from their absences.

* ***When a student is absent*:** The parent/guardian needs to call the school by 8am to notify the school of the student’s absence. If a student is ill, injured or has an appointment which cannot be scheduled at another time, it will be noted as an excused absence. Please call the school at 718-834-6939. You must also send a written note or email upon return. If your child is absent for more than three days please send a doctor’s note. The school will contact the families of children with excessive absences.

***Please do not send your children to school if they have a contagious disease (i.e.COVID -19 symptoms, lice, fever, sore throat, etc.).***

* ***Actions taken for students with less than 92% attendance:***
  + Each absence you will receive a call home

### Three absences in a month

### Phone call from a member of the attendance committee

### If this is not the first month with more than one absence, then the parent comes in to meet with the family group advisor and other school staff (guidance counselor, social worker, parent coordinator and assistant principal, principal). At this meeting the advisor will: Discuss strategies for improving student attendance and draft an attendance contract for the parent and student to sign.

### More than two absences in a month

### See above

### Absences are automatically reported on the school's computer system to the attendance and truancy office of the Department of Education. If possible, an attendance teacher will be sent to the student's home.

### Depending upon the circumstances, the school will be obligated to report a chronically absent student to Child Protective Services as mandated under the educational neglect /child abuse reporting regulations.

**Lateness**

When a student arrives late to school, she/he must obtain a late pass from the main office and then go directly to class. And sign the late book. It is very important that late students pass by the main offices so that we know that they are in attendance. Failure to do so will result in a call home to say that the student is absent.

When a student shows a pattern of excessive lateness, the school will call the parent to arrange a virtual meeting with the parent and related school staff which could include the attendance teacher, social worker, guidance counselor, parent coordinator, and administrator.

**Early Pick up**

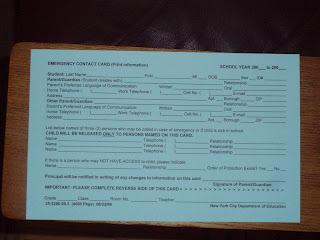
If you are picking up your in-person child early, please notify the teacher in writing and call the secretary in the main office at 718-834-6939, so that we can have him/her prepared and ready for you. It is important for your child to attend a full day of school. Please try to schedule appointments after school.

**When a note is absolutely necessary**

A note to the teacher becomes absolutely necessary when your child’s regular routine is changed. For example:

* Your child is walking home rather than taking the bus.
* You are picking up your child at a time other than dismissal.
* Your child will not be attending an after school program.
* You have authorized another person or family member to pick up your child.
* When your child returns from an absence.
* When you change your address or phone number (please also see the school secretary).

**Blue Card**

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**Blue card must indicate custodial arrangements and phone numbers where someone can be reached at all times**. In event of an emergency, the school will make every attempt to reach a parent or legal guardian. It is imperative that we have an updated and completed blue card. Please make sure that you update the blue card when any changes occur - children will not be released in an emergency unless the person is designated on the blue card. Please inform your child’s teacher when you have made changes. In case of a school emergency, all children will remain at PS 44. If the school is deemed unsafe, students will go to Arts and Letters United (PS 305) at 344 Monroe Street Brooklyn NY 11221 and children may be picked up from there. Fire and emergency drills are held regularly.

**Visitors**



We encourage all families to visit PS 44, Marcus Garvey Magnet school of Engineering and Design, and our classrooms. We strongly recommend that parents schedule an appointment before coming to the school, as we may not be able to accommodate an unexpected visit due to COVID-19 restrictions. **All visitors must enter through the Main Entrance on Monroe Street, sign-in when entering the school (photo id is required) with the School Safety Agent, and follow the necessary health screening and safety guidelines.** The School Safety Agent will issue a visitor’s pass that must be worn at all times while you are in the school building. The safety of our community does not rest in the in the hands of one person. It is each of our responsibility to keep one another safe. We are asking that if anyone notices a visitor in our building without proper ID they escort that visitor back to the safety desk to obtain a visitor’s pass. Once you have received your visitors pass go to the main office. **Visitors may not go directly to a meeting location until they have checked in at the Main Office.**

**Lunch Schedule**



**11:00am-11:50am 3K/Pre-K/K/2/4**

**12:00pm-12:50pm Grades 1/3/5**

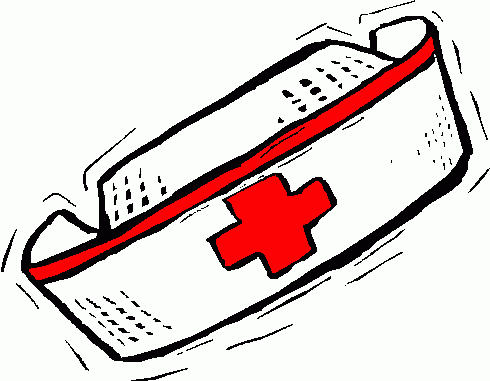
**The Role of the Parent Coordinator**



The Parent Coordinator (PC) is part of the administrative team working under the supervision of the principal. The PC will engage with and involve parents in the school community by working with the principal, school leadership team, parent associations, community groups and parent advisory councils. The position focuses on creating a welcoming environment for parents. The PC will identify parent and related school/community issues and work with the principal to see that they are addressed in a timely manner. The PC also works with the PTA when needed, to provide assistance in establishing by-laws, holding elections and conducting their affairs in accordance with Chancellor’s Regulation A-660.

The parent coordinator should be contacted first when parents have any questions or concerns regarding the school.

**School Nurse**



**P.S. 44 has a Registered Nurse on staff every day.** All sick or injured students will be sent to the nurse’s office during the school day. The nurse’s office will attempt to contact parents and families with any health issues. In order for the nurse’s office to contact families, all parents/guardians must provide accurate and up-to-date information on the Blue Emergency Card each year. No medication can be given in school without (including over–the–counter medication unless a DOE Medication Form (MFA) for the current year is completed by your doctor and parental permission is given by signing the back of the form. Medication must come in the original container.

**Learning Expectations**

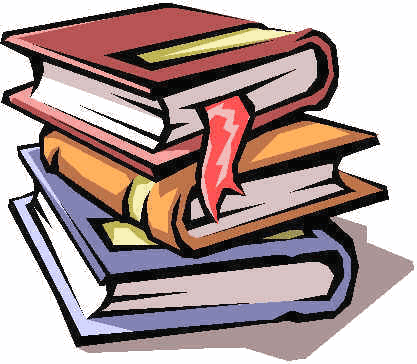


All of our classrooms offer a comprehensive and rigorous program aligned with the Next Generation Learning Standards. To access specific grade level standards in each subject for your child, please visit <http://www.schools.nyc.gov>. We expect all children to achieve grade level standard or above every year that they are at PS 44. We use a Expeditionary Learning and *Fundations* (K-2) to guide language arts instruction. We use the *EnVisionmath 2.0* Curriculum for math instruction. Students are provided weekly, standards-based instruction in social studies, science, character development, art, physical education/movement, and technology.

To view a further description of the instruction and curriculum, please visit: <http://www.schools.nyc.gov/Offices/TeachLearn/OfficeCurriculumProfessionalDevelopment/default.htm>

We also offer a curriculum conference for each grade level. Parents are encouraged to visit their child’s classroom, find out about what students will learn throughout the year, and ask any questions about the overall educational process for their child.

**Staff Development**



Throughout the year, teachers participate in professional development workshops. These sessions strengthen their teaching skills. There are a few days during the year when school is closed because all teachers are involved in training activities.

**Student Progress**



**PS 44 will inform families about their child’s academic progress in various ways including:**

**Written Feedback**

* Report Cards
* Homework comments
* Graded tests and classwork/projects
* Parents reporting tools
* Individual student behavior plans

**Meetings**

* Curriculum Conference
* Parent/Teacher conferences and meetings
* Individual meeting
* Tuesdays Parent Involvement evenings @2:40pm

**Additional School/Family Communication**

* Scheduled meetings with the Parent Coordinator
* Informational bulletin board in front of the school
* Monthly Calendar
* Monthly Classroom Newsletters sent home by every classroom teacher and principal
* Parent Workshops on various topics

The administrative and teaching staff is accessible to families. Through an appointment, families are able to speak and meet with any staff member on Tuesday afternoons from 2:40 – 3:15pm and during prep periods.

**Field trips**



Students at PS 44 will extend their learning outside of the classroom and into the richness of the NYC community and surrounding areas, including museums, art and music exhibits, plays, etc. Field trips are planned excursions, which extend classroom instruction from which children will benefit educationally.

According to DOE regulations, official DOE signed permission slips for all children are required prior to leaving on a field trip this includes all walking field trips. Parent/ Guardian permission over the phone is not acceptable. ***Each student participating in a field trip must have written permission.***

**Required Tests**

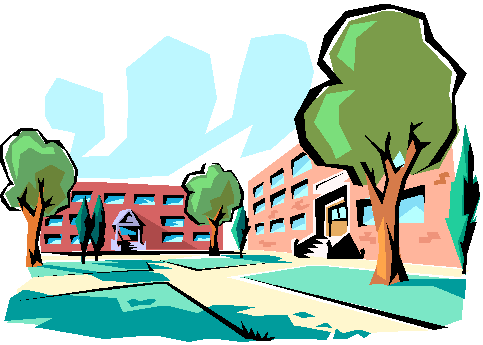


New York State requires students to take the following tests:

* ***New York State ELA CBT 3rd-4th-5th grade students***
  + *Date Monday, April 20 - Tuesday, April 21, 202*6
* ***New York State Math CBT 3rd-4th-5th grade students*** 
  + *Date Monday, May 11 – Tuesday, May 12, 2026*
* ***Science Test CBT 5th Grade***
  + ***May 13, 2026***

* ***NYSESLAT, (New York State English as a Second Language Achievement Test).*** All Students, if identified as an English Language Learner, will continue to take this yearly assessment until they score a proficient on the test.
  + *Speaking Exam-Monday April 6 - Friday, May 22, 2026*
  + *Reading, Writing, Listening Exam- Monday, May 4-Friday, May 22, 2026*

**Application to Middle School**



Fifth graders begin the middle school application process in October when they receive Middle School directories. In December students receive applications and return them immediately. Students receive notice of their acceptance in May.

Each school district has different procedures, schedules for tours, and application deadlines. Parents are encouraged to call schools in September to schedule their tours since the process is competitive and time consuming. Fifth grade teachers and the guidance counselor will help complete student’s application forms. Because of the volume, please submit all paperwork a few days prior to due date.

Many middle schools base their student acceptances on the outcomes of the fourth grade test. It is important for your child to do well on the fourth grade test to ensure that they have a choice in which middle school they will attend.

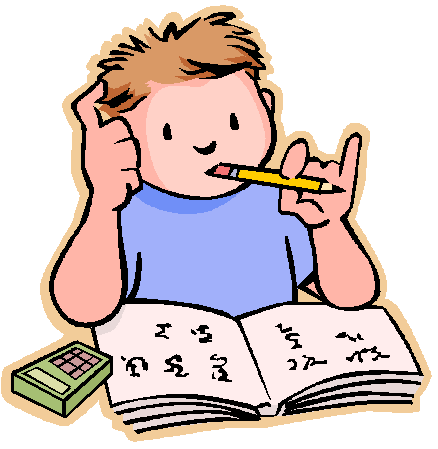
**Promotion Criteria**



The Marcus Garvey Elementary School will use a wide range of tools to determine a child’s readiness to transition from grade level to grade level and to middle school. All criteria are aligned to the NYC DOE regulations. In order for your child to be promoted he/she must meet the following criteria:

* ***Have a minimum average of 92% attendance (absences cannot exceed 18 days per year).***
* ***Pass the NYS ELA and Math Exams, scoring at level 2, 3, or 4.***
* ***Demonstrate level 2, 3, or 4 abilities through an authentic portfolio, maintained by the classroom teacher.***
* ***Demonstrate effort and participation as evidenced by teacher observation and anecdotal records.***

# Homework Policies



***Daily Homework:***

Daily homework is assigned by teachers to supplement class instruction, show parents what their child is learning in school, teach organizational habits, and extend learning of a particular skill or concept. Teachers will check homework daily and confer with the child at least once a week regarding HW in Math, Writing, Reading and other content areas. Teachers will keep a record of this information and your child’s progress, to confer with you during formal and informal conferences.

Homework is given every night in grades Kindergarten through Fifth. Teachers will keep a written record that states if homework was complete, incomplete, not done, or absent. This record will be part of your child’s grade.

Clearly communicate the importance of completing all assignments, including projects, to your child. Tell them what you want to them to accomplish. It is your responsibility to make time to assist your child with homework each night. All homework assignments for a given day should be reviewed and signed by the parent.

**Types of Homework**

1. **Practice**

Assignments are selected to promote retention of a skill mastered in class with practice sessions at home. The goal is to increase speed and accuracy or extend the skill horizontally. You may have students: write, list, state, label, define, draw a picture, select examples or choose.

1. **Application and or Expansion**

Assignments are designed to expand and extend learning by requiring the application or use of what was learned. Interrelated subject matter is reviewed and or recalled to clarity subsequent lessons. You may have your child:

Summarize, prepare, clarify, draw conclusion, outline, compare and contrast information.

1. **Homework Allocations**

Homework will be given in every content area taught that day. Daily homework will support instruction and be varied in subject and type of response required. The amount of homework given will fall within the time span listed below.

| **Grade** | **Total** |
| --- | --- |
| Kindergarten | 15-20 minutes |
| Grade One | 20-30 minutes |
| Grade Two | 30- 45minutes |
| Grade Three | 45- 60 minutes |
| Grade Four | 60-70 minutes |
| Grade Five | 70- 90 minutes |

The allocations listed above are minimums. This allocation includes independent reading.

***Homework Consequences***

**1st Time:** Teacher will have a conversation with the student about the missing homework.

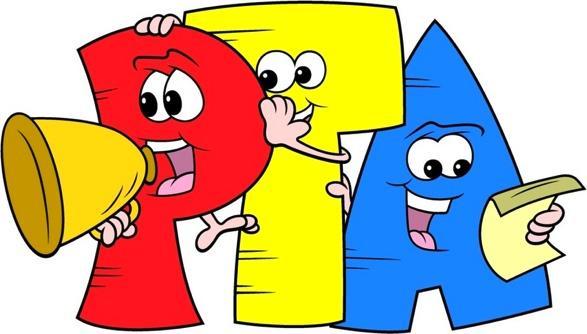
**2nd Time**: Phone call home to parent/guardian.

**3rd Time:** Phone call and parent signature log. The parent/guardian is now responsible to sign the student’s homework nightly.

***Holiday Homework***

During all school vacations each teacher will prepare academically challenging and developmentally appropriate packets. Feedback will be given on all holiday homework and letters will be sent home to families about their child’s performance on the assignment.

**Parent Teacher Association**



One of the greatest strengths of P.S. 44 is the collaboration between teachers, administrators and families through the Parent Teacher Association**.**

The PTA main responsibilities are to facilitate this collaboration and to raise funds to support our school.

Parent Teacher Association meetings are held once a month on Wednesday evenings from 6 pm-7:00pm in the auditorium. The PTA will notify you of the dates for this year’s meetings.

We encourage parents to attend meetings: (TENTATIVE DATES – **3RD. Thursday of each month @ 5:30pm)**

September 16, 2025

October 16, 2025

November 20, 2025

December 18, 2025

January 15, 2026

February 12, 2026

March 19 2026

April 16, 2026

May 21, 2026

June 18, 2026

**PTA Executive Board**

* ***President:***  Ms. Semkiya Jones
* ***Vice President:*** Ms. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* ***Secretary*:** Ms. Tanika Ogle
* ***Treasurer:*** Ms, Tameka Mitchell

**Duties of officers**

* ***President***

The president shall preside at all meetings of the association and shall be a member of all committees except the nominating committee. The president shall provide leadership for the members. The president shall appoint chairpersons of PTA committees with the approval of the Executive Board. The president shall delegate responsibilities to other PTA members and shall encourage meaningful participation in all parent and school activities.

The president shall attend all regular meetings of the region/district presidents’ council and shall be a core member of the school leadership team. The president shall meet regularly with the Executive Board members in accordance with the bylaws to plan the agendas for the general membership meetings**.** The president shall be one of the signatories on checks. The president or his/her designee shall represent the PTA on region/district committees.

* ***Vice President***

The vice-president shall assist the president and shall assume the president's or co-presidents’ duties in his/her or their absence or at the president’s’ request. The vice-president shall be one of the signatories on all checks. The vice-president shall assist with the June transfer of PTA records to the incoming Executive Board.

* ***Secretary***

The secretary shall maintain the official record (minutes) of the proceedings and actions of all association meetings. The responsibilities shall include the preparation of notices, agendas, sign-in sheets and materials distributed. The secretary shall prepare and read the minutes of each association meeting and shall make copies of the minutes available upon request. He/she shall maintain custody of the association’s records on school premises. The secretary shall sign and incorporate all amendments into the bylaws and shall ensure that signed copies of the PTA bylaws with the latest amendments are on file in the principal’s office. The secretary shall be responsible for reviewing, maintaining and responding to all correspondence addressed to the association. The secretary shall assist with the June transfer of all PTA records to the incoming Executive Board.

* ***Treasurer***

The treasurer shall be responsible for all financial affairs and funds of the association. The treasurer shall also be responsible for maintaining an updated record of all income and expenditures on school premises and shall be one of the signatories on checks. The treasurer shall adhere to and implement all financial procedures established by the association. The treasurer shall be prepared to present and provide copies of financial reports at all association meetings. The treasurer shall also prepare and provide the January 31st interim and June annual financial accounting reports. He/she shall make available all books or financial records for viewing by members upon request and for audit. The treasurer shall prepare all financial records and assist with the June transfer of all PTA records to the incoming Executive Board.

**School Leadership Team (SLT)**



The SLT is a place where parents, administrators and staff members have an opportunity to communicate regularly and share ideas. All SLT’s must be 50% parents and 50% staff. The Principal, PTA President and UFT Rep (or their designees) are automatically on the team. Other members are elected by their constituencies at a special election held for that purpose. Many of the official responsibilities of the SLT revolve around creating the Comprehensive Education Plan (CEP) for our school. The school Leadership Team meets once a month.

**Parent Members**

Semkiya Jones (PTA President)

Tameka Mitchell

Tanika Ogle

**Staff Members**

LaTisha Cotton (Principal)

Helena Johnson (UFT)

Deborah Lewis (Chairperson)

Rosalyn Inman

Lacey Samsoe

Shalibra Frazier

**Parent Involvement & Volunteering**

The benefits of family-school- partnerships are many: higher teacher morale, more parent involvement, and greater student success are only a few. That is why PTA developed the National Standards for Family-School Partnerships Implementation Guide, a tool for empowering people to work together with an end goal of building family-school partnerships and student success. NYCDOE measures are comprehensive and many address multiple elements of the *Framework for Great Schools*. The following measures are those that most closely align to this element:

**Six National Standards for Family-School Partnerships**:

* Standard 1: Welcoming All Families into the School Community
* Standard 2: Communicating Effectively
* Standard 3: Supporting Student Success
* Standard 4: Speaking Up for Every Child
* Standard 5: Sharing Power
* Standard 6: Collaborating with Community

It is imperative for your child to know you value their education. PS 44 is an exciting and nurturing place for our children. We want parents to be involved, so whatever your schedule, interests and abilities, we value your input. Reinforcing the learning that goes on in the classroom is crucial, so even if you cannot get to the school during the day, talk to your child about the school day and talk with them about homework for your child to know you value their education.

* ***Volunteer in the classroom or lunchroom*.** Talk with your child’s teacher about scheduling a regular time to help in the classroom or to come in on special occasions, especially in the lower grades. A parent might also help with such things as coordinating field trips, helping prepare for an assembly, set up for a specific project, assist during art or science, or helping supervise different events. Please see the Parent Coordinator, if you want to become a volunteer.
* ***Be a Class Parent.*** Many classrooms need a “Class Parent” who coordinates getting school, PTA or classroom information out to our families.
* ***Become a PTA member.*** The PS 44 PTA meets once a month in the Auditorium at 6 pm (the 3rd Thursday of each month, unless there’s a holiday then it changes). The PTA discusses an array of issues and concerns stemming directly from our children’s' experiences at PS 44. These PTA association meetings are the forum for parents’ ideas and questions to be heard. The PTA resolves all moneys spent during PTA meetings. This is an excellent place to meet and talk to other parents, teachers, and administrators.
* ***Help with an event.*** PS 44 host many family events during the school year (i.e. Parents as Math/Reading Partners, Family Fun Day, Book sales, Marcus Garvey Feast, STEM workshops, graduation, etc).  Talk to the Parent Coordinator, or a PTA member and find out who is coordinating the event and see what type of help you can offer.

**Chat and Chew With the Principal**



Chat and Chew with the Principal is a monthly meeting where our parents and our Principal have an opportunity to speakonan array of issues and concerns stemming directly from our children’s experiences at PS 44. These meetings take place on Fridays from 8:00-8:30, prior to Family First Friday classroom visits.

October 3, 2025

November 7, 2025

December 5, 2025

January 9, 2026

February 6, 2026

March 6, 2026

April 17, 2026

May 1, 2026

**Family First Fridays**



Once a month on Friday mornings from 9:10 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., all classes invite family members into their classrooms to participate in a Family First Friday to see what students are working on in literacy. We will be sending home additional information about this program. We strongly encourage all parents to participate and attend at least 6 times a year.

All dates subject to change, please consult monthly calendar and notices from the school.

September 5, 2025

October 3, 2025

November 7, 2025

December 5, 2025

January 9, 2026

February 6, 2026

March 6, 2026

April 17, 2026

May 1, 2026

**Appropriate dress for Students**



**PS 44, Marcus Garvey Magnet School of Engineering and Design is a mandated uniform school.** All students from 3- Kindergarten – 5th grade must wear the school uniform every day. The uniform – yellow,navy, light blue shirt, navy pants or dark blue jeans. Parents should reinforce and encourage all students to wear uniform daily.

Students are encouraged to dress age appropriately, suitable to weather conditions when they come to school. Students should wear comfortable shoes to school and sneakers on days they have P.E. Students who do not wear sneakers on P.E. days will not be allowed to participate in gym activities. Label jackets, sweatshirts, raincoats, lunchboxes and backpacks with indelible marker pen.

**Lunch and Snack**



• Students are provided healthy meals, including snacks. However, they may bring a packed lunch or request a school lunch.  **Candies, cookies, soda, energy drinks, and snacks high in sugar are not allowed during lunch and snack time**. For safety of our students, all containers, including bottles should be plastic. Parents, we are requesting your support because we want to keep our children safe and well.

