



**KIPP:NEWARK**  
**SPARK ACADEMY**

- P** 973.481.0327
- W** www.kippnj.org/schools/kipp-spark-academy
- A** 230 Halsey Street Newark, NJ 07102

**OPENED** 2009

**LEADER** Jenna Marcus

**HOURS** 8:00AM-4:00PM (M, Tu, Th, F)  
8:00AM-1:30PM (W)



## KIPP New Jersey's first elementary school prepares students to and through college from the day they start kindergarten.

### ABOUT KIPP SPARK ACADEMY

Located in Newark's central ward, SPARK Academy was founded in 2009 with 100 kindergartners. Since then, SPARK has grown to a fully-sized K-4th grade school. Upon completion of elementary school, SPARK fourth graders go on to TEAM Academy, the network's first founding middle school.

### ABOUT KIPP NEW JERSEY

KIPP New Jersey schools are part of the nationally recognized "Knowledge Is Power Program" non-profit network of college-preparatory, public charter schools educating elementary, middle, and high school students. In 2002, KIPP New Jersey first opened its

doors in Newark's South Ward as a single class of 80 fifth graders and has since grown to teach over 5,700 students in grades K-12 in Newark and Camden. 88% of KIPP New Jersey students currently qualify for free or reduced meals.

KIPP New Jersey alumni earn college degrees at more than 3 times the national average for students from low-income families. By offering highly effective educators with strong bonds to families, more time in school learning, services that support a variety of student needs, and a culture focused on achievement, our students are on the path to and through college.

*"SPARK Academy went above and beyond what my expectations were for any school."* -KIPP SPARK ACADEMY PARENT

89%

ELIGIBLE FOR FREE  
OR REDUCED-PRICE  
LUNCH

8.6%

QUALIFY FOR  
SPED SERVICES

85%

AFRICAN AMERICAN  
STUDENTS

7%

LATINO  
STUDENTS

560

STUDENTS  
SERVED

K-4

GRADES



# WHAT MAKES KIPP SPARK ACADEMY UNIQUE?

## WE ARE NEWARK, NEW JERSEY

SPARKsters learn early and often to leave a place better than they found it, and that applies to Newark as much as the hallway in their school. Through service learning projects and character education, they learn to be the change in our city.

## TEAM AND FAMILY

Parents have teachers' cell phone numbers to ask questions, attend Saturday schools for kindergarteners, and participate in family focused events throughout the year.

There's also a family association of parent volunteers committed to strengthening the partnership between scholars, the school, and the community.

## TO AND THROUGH COLLEGE

From day one, students are on a path to college. Classrooms at SPARK are named after colleges, grade levels are named after the year kids go to college, and students visit and learn about colleges throughout the year.



# HOW ARE STUDENTS PROGRESSING?

## PROGRESS REPORTING

Students are tested throughout the year to make sure they are learning, so we don't just rely on state tests to know if they are on track. Teachers have custom-built dashboards to make this data actionable on a daily and weekly basis. We collect hundreds of data points on each of our students throughout the year, and send them to parents weekly to keep them informed of their students' progress. Twice a year, we use the nationally-normed

MAP test to measure our progress against the nation.

## RESULTS THAT MATTER

SPARK fourth graders have performed in the 70th percentile in math and the 61st percentile in reading in the nation, much higher than fifth graders who enter our schools from other schools, who typically start around the 25th percentile in math and reading.

## VALUES



SEEK  
KNOWLEDGE



PURSUE  
JUSTICE



ACT AS  
A TEAM



REACH FOR  
EXCELLENCE



KEEP  
GOING



LOVE

## MEET JENNA MARCUS, SCHOOL LEADER

*Jenna Marcus was a founding Co-teacher at KIPP SPARK Academy in 2009. Over the years, she has helped drive top-of-KIPP results as a kindergarten grade level chair and a fourth grade level chair. In her previous role as Assistant School Leader, she has helped revamp the vision for student culture and greatly improved SPARK's performance. Recently, she won the 2016 Improvement TEAMspy for the work she has done to make SPARK a better place for kids and teachers. Jenna was a 2009 Graduate of University of Michigan with a degree in Psychology. Jenna's passion for this work is fueled by a true love for her students and families, and a deep belief in their potential to spark the change they wish to see in the world.*