



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

**OPENED** 2009  
**LEADER** Tamika Killins  
**HOURS** 8:00AM-4:00PM (M, Tu, Th, F)  
8:00AM-1:30PM (W)



## KIPP New Jersey's first elementary school prepares students to succeed in their journey to and through college, starting in kindergarten.

87.3%

ELIGIBLE FOR FREE  
OR REDUCED-PRICE  
LUNCH

8.5%

QUALIFY FOR  
SPED SERVICES

82%

AFRICAN AMERICAN  
STUDENTS

6%

LATINX  
STUDENTS

12%

OTHER

566

STUDENTS  
SERVED

K-4

GRADES

### ABOUT KIPP SPARK ACADEMY

Located in Newark's central ward, KIPP SPARK Academy was founded in 2009 with 100 kindergartners. Since then, SPARK has grown to educate over 500 students in a fully-sized K-4th grade school. Upon completion of elementary school, many SPARK fourth graders have the option of moving onto to one of our four Newark middle schools.

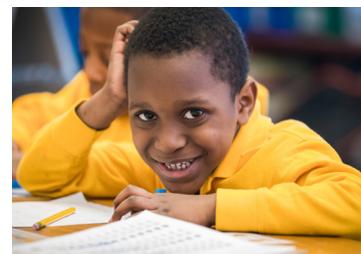
### ABOUT KIPP NEWARK

KIPP Newark 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 Newark first opened its doors in

Newark's South Ward as a single class of 80 fifth graders and has since grown to teach over 5,266 students in grades K-12 in Newark. Our goal is to enroll 7,800 students across 15 schools in Newark. Eighty-six percent of KIPP Newark students currently qualify for free or reduced meals.

KIPP Newark alumni earn college degrees at more than three 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



# 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

Our students take the MAP test in the winter and spring to measure their progress on a nationally-normed scale. Our elementary students typically finish elementary school around the 70th percentile in math nationally and the 60th percentile in reading, after starting closer to the 25th percentile. They start fifth grade well ahead of other fifth graders in Newark.

## VALUES



SEEK  
KNOWLEDGE



PURSUE  
JUSTICE



ACT AS  
A TEAM



REACH FOR  
EXCELLENCE



KEEP  
GOING



LOVE

## MEET TAMIKA KILLINS, SCHOOL LEADER

*Tamika's 20-year career as an educator and leader began in Petersburg, VA, where she worked as a fourth-grade teacher. She brought her lifelong passion for education back to her home state in 2012 when she joined KIPP SPARK Academy in Newark, NJ. As an educator she was known for her engaging lessons, as well as strong classroom culture and relationships with families. In 2017, she became the dean of students at SPARK before being named KIPP SPARK Academy's school leader in 2020. Tamika holds a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from Virginia State University. Her 20-year career as a teacher and leader began as a fourth-grade teacher in Petersburg, VA. In her spare time, she is a Girl Scout troop leader, the Secretary of her church education board, sings on the choir, and spends time with her husband and their two daughters.*