



Buffalo Promise
NEIGHBORHOOD



Seeing promise through.

Strong families make strong students, strong students make strong schools, and strong schools make strong communities. At Buffalo Promise Neighborhood, this is our strongest belief, and every day we're working hard to lift up the students and families in our community. Read on to learn more about what's been happening throughout the neighborhood.

PROMISE SCHOOLS

RENEW WESTMINSTER

Good things are happening at **Westminster Community Charter School**, a flagship promise school. On the heels of what was a rollercoaster year for educators, the Westminster community is building on its yesterdays to create brighter todays and tomorrows. This spring, the school's charter is up for renewal. As school leadership, teachers, students, and families look forward to the future, Westminster's commitment to renewal runs deeper than its charter. It's a shared commitment to renewing promise, hope, and strength throughout the Westminster community—it's about renewing every day.

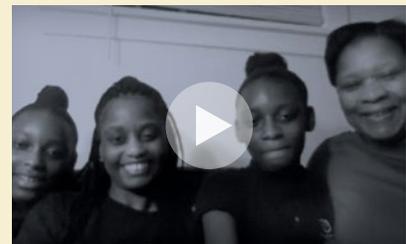
To celebrate the moment and the moments still yet to be made, Westminster is sharing inspiring stories of students and families who have been part of the Pride over the years. Click below to give them a watch!



MEET JAZMINE



MEET LAREEK & JANIRA



MEET JAYDA, JANERIA, JAMYA & DARNELL



If you're part of the Pride and would like to share a story about how your life has been changed here, get in touch with us. **We can't wait to hear from you!**

PROMISE FAMILIES

Westminster family rebounds from house fire.

The family of two Westminster students, eighth-grader **Tyrell** and fifth-grader **Travell**, suffered a house fire last spring, which left them displaced, many of their possessions lost. Despite the hardship, the boys **attend classes daily** and get all their schoolwork in. Their teachers report they've kept their sense of humor, take accountability for themselves, and are always polite. Their mother, **Ms. Abram**, has continued to work full-time while also remaining engaged in the boys' schoolwork and with teachers. This family is the epitome of resilience, and we are happy they are part of our **Westminster family**.

Support beyond the classroom.

Carlina R. is a single mom with two sons who attend Highgate Heights Elementary. She reached out after losing her mother, looking for **grief counseling** for her boys. Our resource coordinator delivered but also learned more about the family. We connected Carlina with a family support specialist who helped secure **safe housing** for the family. "Things aren't perfect, but I am in a much better place thanks to these ladies," she said. "They are like guardian angels and I am so grateful for all of their help."

Children's Academy parent becomes Children's Academy teacher.

Ms. Newton is a 21-year-old mother of two children. She joined the Buffalo Promise Neighborhood family in September 2020 when her two-year-old son was enrolled at the **Children's Academy at Gerard Place**. At that time, she was unemployed and seeking employment in the childcare field. Our family support specialist encouraged her to pursue a **teacher assistant position** with our partner, **EduKids**, and we are happy to report that she has become a team member! Now, Ms. Newton is focused on obtaining her **child development associate license** so she can become a lead teacher and further her career.

PROMISE TEACHERS

For students to achieve a well-rounded education, integrated teamwork is essential in the classroom. The more that teamwork is exhibited, the greater the opportunity for growth. **Ms. Krawczyk** and **Ms. Skelley** are exemplary examples of this at Westminster Community Charter School. Both are English Language Learner (ELL) teachers who provide support to more than 30 students. While Ms. Skelley began at the school this year, Ms. Krawczyk has provided support for the past four years. Both have previous teaching experience and have a passion for providing literacy development and reading and writing instruction.

While impacted by the pandemic, they have been flexible in navigating academic schedules and virtual instruction, all while working in partnership with classroom teachers. Our admin team is proud to observe them as they share their ideas and work together in the best interests of our students and families.

Likewise, Ms. Krawczyk and Ms. Skelley feel lucky to be part of such a cohesive team and rich environment. They believe **Westminster Community Charter School** emulates a true community school and partnership.

PROMISE COMMUNITY

Celebrating the spirit.

Rooted in Love, led by M&T Bank's Tesha Parker, and **Dion's Dreamers** came together this past November to distribute holiday gift bags to 500 neighborhood residents with the help of generous donations from local businesses.

Spark a career in technology.

Take the first steps toward learning new skills in high-growth career tracks such as data analysis, software engineering, or related technology roles with the **Western New York Tech Skills Initiative**. A variety of course format options and topics are available. Most courses do not require tech experience. Virtual programs are free for Western New York residents who qualify. If you are interested in learning more, visit the [Initiative's website](#) or text SKILLS to (716) 710-6901.

With gratitude.

Every year, M&T Bank employees are given the opportunity to donate to the **United Way Annual Giving Campaign**. This year was especially difficult for not-for-profit organizations and the need was greater than imagined for many families in Western New York. Once again, **M&T employees** generously chose Buffalo Promise Neighborhood for their annual contribution. If you are interested in learning more about how you can help through direct contribution, visit BuffaloPromiseNeighborhood.org.



Buffalo Promise Neighborhood is a long-term collaboration between **M&T Bank** and its community to empower schools, students, and families. We understand that learning and opportunity are intrinsically connected, and that success is most meaningful when its shared by everyone.