

September 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian:

As a parent/guardian of a student in ***Renaissance West Steam Academy***, I am writing this letter to let you know that ***Renaissance West Steam Academy*** has been designated as a Targeted Support & Improvement Additional Targeted Support (TSI-AT) school by the North Carolina State Board of Education. As stated in ESSA Section 1111(d)(2), North Carolina had to identify schools for targeted support and improvement. TSI-AT schools in North Carolina are those that have a subgroup that is under-performing. The intent of this opportunity is to improve educational outcomes for all students, close achievement gaps, increase equity, and improve the quality of instruction.

As a TSI-AT school, ***Renaissance West Steam Academy*** is required to develop a comprehensive plan that specifically addresses how the school will improve student achievement. The plan will also include how our district will support us and monitor the progress of our school. The comprehensive plan will address the following areas:

- Classroom Management
- Standard-aligned Instruction
- Professional Learning Communities (PLCs)
- Instructional Leadership
- Recruitment & Retention of Effective Teachers
- Support for Grade-to-Grade Transitions
- Implementation of a Tiered Instructional System
- Data-Driven Decision Making
- Student Support Services
- Family and Community Engagement

We have set the following goals for Renaissance West Steam Academy this year:

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade ELA: The percent of Black and Hispanic 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students who combined score at the College and Career Ready level 4 or 5 in English Language Arts will increase from 15.9% in October 2022 to 50% by October 2024.
- The percent of schools who met or exceeded expected Educator Value Added Assessment System (EVAAS) growth will increase from 71.7% in October 2019 to 95% by October 2024.
- The percent of 8th grade students who score at the College and Career (CCR) level -- a 4 or 5 -- on the Grade 8 Mathematics EOG will increase from 12% in SY2021-22 to 19% in SY2022-23 and 28% in SY2023-24.

Our students need to experience higher achievement levels, but it will require hard work on the part of staff, students and families. Here are some strategies Renaissance West Steam Academy will be implementing:

- Monitor academic performance through weekly meetings led by administration specifically around K-2, 3-5, 6-8.

- Maintain physical display on leadership scoreboards around assessment data in mathematics, science, and language arts.
- Parent Communication will occur weekly, where teachers will inform parents of what is happening in the classroom.
- Meet weekly with student services to ensure progress towards CMS guardrail Social Emotional Goals
- Walkthroughs will focus on increasing students' engagement to 100% in all lessons.

Parent engagement is at the heart of our school improvement efforts. Here are some ways we can work together:

- Make sure that both you and your student are aware of academic expectations set for your student this school year. A list of learning objectives in student-friendly language is available from your student's teacher(s).
- Call Renaissance West Steam Academy (980)343-0049 if you have questions or concerns about your student or to set up an appointment to meet with a school staff member who will be working with your student.
- Make sure that your student is prepared and attends school each day.
- Monitor your student's homework.
- Monitor the progress your student is making and attend meetings with your student's teacher(s).
- Keep track of our website and social media sites <https://www.cmsk12.org/renaissancewestES>
- Volunteer.
- Join the PTSA

Sounds like a lot but preparing our students so that they can succeed is not easy and is a group effort. Here are some resources available to help:

- Graduation requirements: [www.ncpublicschools.org/gradrequirements/](http://www.ncpublicschools.org/gradrequirements/)
- K-12 standards in academic subjects: [www.ncpublicschools.org/curriculum/](http://www.ncpublicschools.org/curriculum/)
- State student achievement test results: [www.ncpublicschools.org/accountability/](http://www.ncpublicschools.org/accountability/)
- N.C. School Report Cards: <https://www.dpi.nc.gov/data-reports/school-report-cards>

We're excited about this school year and are working to make it a success for your student. Already, we have: We have developed an instructional framework that focuses on examining data regularly from principal to instructional leaders. A shift has been placed on those instructional leaders who are coaching teachers to own the teacher's success and areas of improvement and allowing this coaching framework to be a big lever in school improvement.

If you have questions about the content of this letter, please contact Jessica Farr at [jessicar.farr@cms.k12.nc.us](mailto:jessicar.farr@cms.k12.nc.us) or 980-343-0049.

Sincerely,



Dwight Thompson  
Principal  
Renaissance West Steam Academy