



REACH FURTHER.

Reach further. Reach further. Reach further.

January 11, 2019

Dear Parent/Guardian:

I hope the school year has started successfully for all of you. As you know, we've undergone some significant changes this year including a drastic reduction in the number of students we serve. While we were sad to see so many familiar faces and families transition to new schools, we are benefitting from a smaller school, including much smaller class sizes. Additionally, I am very proud of the efforts we have made this year to improve the overall climate and culture in our school. This has included an increased focus on ensuring a high quality academic program for each and every student at Allenbrook designed to meet specific individual needs. I hope you are already seeing the results of these efforts in the growth of your student.

As a parent/guardian of a student in Allenbrook Elementary School I am writing this letter to let you know that Allenbrook Elementary has been designated as a Comprehensive Support & Improvement Low-Performing (CSI-LP) school by the North Carolina State Board of Education. As stated in ESSA Section 1111(c)(4)(D)(i), North Carolina had to identify schools for comprehensive support and improvement. CSI-LP schools in North Carolina are those found in the lowest-performing 5 percent of all schools receiving Title I funding. 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 CSI-LP school, Allenbrook Elementary 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 Allenbrook Elementary this year:

- Increase % of students proficient in literacy from 23% (current students) to 53%. Increase % of students proficient in math from 44% (current students) to 64%. Meet high growth status.
- Reduce Suspensions (ISS and OSS) from 165 to less than 20. Reduce the percentage of students with more than 2 office referrals from 34% to less than 10%.

Phone: 980-343-6004 Fax: 980-343-6115 www.cms.k12.nc.us

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

- Collaborative Literacy Curriculum across all classrooms
- Caring School Community curriculum to address social and emotional learning needs
- Implementation of SIPPS, a phonics intervention designed to support students in learning to read
- Implementation of small groups to support social skills development
- Increased community partnerships including HEART Math Tutoring, Read A Book Earn A Book, TutorMate and Above and Beyond After School
- Partnership with school district and outside experts to provide ongoing professional development for staff
- Curriculum nights held during each semester to share student data and ways you can help at home

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 Rebecca Ollie at 980-343-6004 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
 - Website: <http://schools.cms.k12.nc.us/allenbrookES/Pages/Default.aspx>
 - Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/AllenbrookElementary/>
- Volunteer (examples include: coming in to read with your child and/or another child, participate in a lesson, eating lunch with your child, helping in the media center, etc.). We welcome other ideas and please contact Mr. Neill if you are interested.
- Join the PTA

This 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/
- K-12 standards in academic subjects: www.ncpublicschools.org/curriculum/
- State student achievement test results: www.ncpublicschools.org/accountability/
- N.C. School Report Cards: <https://ncreportcards.ondemand.sas.com/src>

We're excited about this school year and are working to make it a success for your student. Already, we have:

- Successfully implemented our cross-age buddies program pairing all younger students with an older peer mentor
- Reduced out of school suspensions by 80% and the number of office referrals by 60%
- Increased the number of community partners and school volunteers
- Lowered average class sizes
- Created a system for every student to receive literacy interventions four days per week

If you have questions about the content of this letter, please contact Katharine Bonasera at katharineb.bonasera@cms.k12.nc.us or 980-343-6004.

Sincerely,



Katharine Bonasera

Principal

Allenbrook Elementary