

September 23rd, 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian:

I hope the school year has started successfully for all of you. As a parent/guardian of a student in Thomasboro Academy, I am writing this letter to let you know that Thomasboro 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, Thomasboro 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
- Standards-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 Thomasboro Academy this year:

- 40% proficiency in Reading for grades 3-8 as indicated by the End of Grade Test for Reading in Spring 2022
- 40% proficiency in Math for grades 3-8 as indicated by the End of Grade Test for Math in Spring 2022
- 70% proficiency in Science for grades 5-8 as indicated by the End of Grade Test for Science in Spring 2022

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 Thomasboro Academy will be implementing:

- Monthly professional development targeted to meet the academic & social-emotional needs of our scholars

- Weekly and bi-weekly coaching of all teachers and support staff to increase their professional growth & increase learning outcomes of all scholars
- Curriculum/AVID Nights for all families in Fall 2021 and Spring 2022
- Daily Strategic, differentiated small group instruction in the areas of reading, math and science
- Weekly progress monitoring of students' progress aligned to their specific areas of need in reading and math.

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 April Huntley at (980) 343 - 6000 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. Follow us by searching 'Thomasboro Academy' on Facebook and 'thomasboroacademy' on Instagram.
- Volunteer.
- Attend quarterly School Leadership Team Meetings
- Join the Thomasboro Academy PTA

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:

- Thomasboro Academy website: <https://schools.cms.k12.nc.us/thomasboroES/Pages/Default.aspx>
- 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:

- Hosted our In-Person Open House for K-8
- Hosted our Annual Title 1 Night and Fall Curriculum Night

If you have questions about the content of this letter, please contact Jan McIver at jan.mciver@cms.k12.nc.us or (980) 343 - 6000.

Sincerely,

Jan McIver