December 5, 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian:

As a parent/guardian of a student in Whitewater Academy, I am writing this letter to let you know that Whitewater 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 underperforming. 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, Whitewater 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 Whitewater Academy this year:

- The percent of Black and Hispanic 3rd grade students combined who score at the College and Career Ready (CCR) level -- a 4 or 5 -- in English Language Arts (ELA) will increase from 15.9% in October 2021 to 32.1%, by October 2023.
- Percent of students reporting a positive self-perception of their self-management on the Fall Panorama Screener will increase from 72% in Grades 3-5 in September 2021 to 75% in Grades 3-5 in September 2024.
- Out-of-School Suspension (OSS) disproportionately for Black students will decrease from 36.1% in SY2021-22 to 29.5% in SY2022-23 and 23.0% in SY2023-24. (Aligns to A4.06 and CMS Guardrail 1)
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 Whitewater Academy will be implementing:

• Intentional, rigorous and standards aligned lessons will be used across all content areas and administration will monitor lesson delivery and effectiveness.
• Teachers will collaborate with support staff to provide effective specially designed instruction.
• Master schedule includes daily intervention and enrichment time to provide differentiated small group instruction in all grades.
• A unified behavior system “The Whitewater Way” will be utilized to promote positive student behavior and maintain consistent expectations.
• Social Emotional needs addressed during counseling lessons, morning meetings, Caring Schools and MTSS interventions.
• Ongoing professional development will be provided to teachers to better instructional practices and improve student outcomes.
• All students whose needs are not being met through Tier 1 instruction will be supported through the MTSS process.
  o All interventions will be research-based and implemented with fidelity.
  o Parents will have a clear idea of their child’s academic or behavioral challenges, interventions and progress.
• Consistent parent/family communication.
  o Parent-teacher conferences will be held during quarter one with all families where information regarding the curriculum and expectations as related to student learning and success will be provided.
  o Student growth and progress towards mastery will be sent home regularly.
  o BOY, MOY and EOY Dibels Data reports will be sent home for K-3 students.
  o Benchmark Score Reports will be sent home after each assessment has been administered.
  o Thursday folders and student agendas will be utilized by all grade levels.
  o Families in Pre-K, Kindergarten and Fifth grade will understand the transition process and their opportunities to learn more about the next phase of their child’s education pathway.
  o School events will be posted on the Whitewater Facebook Page and sent out via Class Dojo and with a ConnectEd message.
  o Newsletters will be sent home monthly by all grade levels.

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 Lauren Bloom @ 980-343-0003 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/whitewaterES
- Join the PTO

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:

- Whitewater Academy: https://www.cmsk12.org/whitewaterES
- Graduation requirements: www.nepublicschools.org/gradrequirements/
- K-12 standards in academic subjects: www.nepublicschools.org/curriculum/
- State student achievement test results: www.nepublicschools.org/accountability/

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

- School Report Card Grade = C
- EVAAS Score for the 21/22 School Year = Exceeded Growth
- Held fall parent teacher conferences in all grade levels
- Completed all BOY assessments
- Started the Chess Club
- Whitewater Way classroom celebrations
- Monthly Dynamic Dolphin ceremonies
- Newly elected School Improvement Team
- All content and assignments are aligned to the CMS core actions
- Professional development provided to teachers on providing and maintaining instructional best practices

If you have questions about the content of this letter, please contact Lauren Bloom at laureng.bloom@cms.k12.nc.us or 980-343-0003.

Sincerely,

Lauren Bloom, Principal