

University Park Creative Arts

2400 Hildebrand Street
Charlotte, NC 28216

980.343.5178
980.343.5182

November 28, 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian:

As a parent/guardian of a student in *University Park Creative Arts*, I am writing this letter to let you know that *University Park Creative Arts* has been designated as a Comprehensive Support & Improvement Low-Graduation Rate (CSI-LG) 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-LG schools in North Carolina are high schools that have a 4-year cohort graduation rate of less than 66.7%. 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-LG school, *University Park Creative Arts* 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 our school's progress. 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 University Park Creative Arts this year:

- Increase 3rd grade specifically Black and Hispanic students' proficiency at the end of the school year to 25.9% from 1.7%
- *Exceed expected educator value-added assessment system (EVAAS) growth for our overall school index in 2022-23*
- *Increase of positive student self-reporting positive self-efficacy in grades 3-5 to 71%.*
- *Decrease use of school suspensions to 5.1% during 2022-23*

Our students need to experience higher achievement levels, but it will require hard work from staff, students, and families. Here are some strategies University Park Creative Arts will be implementing:

- Teachers create individual professional development goals to support academic growth.
- Social Emotional Curriculum Student Support Service member committed to designated grade levels.
- Monthly parent grade level meetings to support families with academics at home
- Open House and Curriculum Night events
- Awards Assemblies to Recognize Student Achievement
- School-wide Behavior Expectation Matrix with School-wide Incentives
- Communities and Schools Partnerships
- Tutoring during and after school in-person and via zoom

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Parent engagement is at the heart of our school improvement efforts. Here are some ways you can help:

- Make sure that both you and your student are aware of the academic expectations set for your student this school year. A list of learning objectives in the student-friendly language is available from your student's teacher(s).
- Contact your student's teacher with any concerns regarding academic performance.
- Contact Ms. Linda Shipley or Ms. Elaina Fox at 980-343-5178 if you have non-academic concerns
- Make sure that your student is prepared and attends school each day.
- Monitor your student's homework as this is a large portion of your students grade.
- 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/universityparkES>
- Volunteer in school (help update bulletin boards, volunteer in the cafeteria, office, read with students, etc.)
- Join the Sherm Co – Parent Engagement Committee and events

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:

- University Park Creative Arts OTSS Tutoring, School day tutoring with ALP, and small groups in school
- 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://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 the following:

- Open House and Curriculum Events in August, October, December, January and March
- Monthly Parent Teacher Events, Parent Star Academy for each Grade Level
- Parent Teacher Conferences as needed all year.
- Quarterly Awards Assemblies
- Parent Square Updates – Newsletters, and Special Events
- Weekly parent messages regarding upcoming events and reminders via phone and ParentSquare
- Student recognition through distribution of STAR Bucks which can be used to shop in the school store

If you have questions about the content of this letter, please contact Teresa H. Neely at teresah.neely@cms.k12.nc.us or 980-343-5178.

Sincerely,

Dr. Regina J. Boyd

Principal