

Eastway Middle School

1501 Norland Road
Charlotte, NC 28205

Phone 980-343-6410
Fax 980-343-6406

November 27, 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian:

As a parent/guardian of a student in Eastway Middle School, I am writing this letter to let you know that Eastway Middle School 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, Eastway Middle School 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 Eastway Middle School this year:

- 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 7.5 % in SY2021-22 to 17.8 % in SY 2022-2023 and 28% in SY2023-24
- We will exceed expected Educator Value Added Assessment System (EVAAS) growth for our overall school index in SY 2023-24.
- The percent of students reporting a positive self-perception of their self-efficacy on the Panorama Survey will increase from 42% on the 2021-2022 Panorama Screener to 47% in SY 2022-2023 and 50% in SY2023-24.
- The percent of 6th- 8th grade students who score at the College and Career (CCR) level a 4 or 5 on the Grade 6-8 Reading EOG will increase from 8.3% in SY2021-22 to 18.5 % in SY 2022-2023 and 28% in SY 2023-24.
- The percent of students reporting a positive self-perception of their self-management on the Panorama Survey will increase from 61% on the 2021-2022 Panorama Screener to 70% in SY 2023-24.
- The percent of students reporting a positive self-perception of their engagement on the Panorama Survey will increase from 35% on the 2021-2022 Panorama Screener to 40% in SY 2022-2023 and 45% in SY 2023-24.
- The Out of School Suspension rate will decrease from 50% in SY 2021-22 to 40% in SY 2022-2023 and 30% in SY 2023-24.

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 Eastway Middle School will be implementing:

- Teachers collaborate with their team to create lesson plans that align with the NC Standard Course of Study utilizing the Curriculum given by the district

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- Teachers implement student tasks that are intentional, rigorous, and aligned to the standards for the grade level and content area
- Hire master teachers to coach novice teachers and lead content PLC meetings
- Provide professional development for staff in best practices for teaching
- Provide students with quality Social Emotional lessons daily
- Comprehensive MTSS Plan to provide additional interventions based on student needs

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 980-343-6410 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/eastwayMS>.
- Volunteer.
- Join the Eastway Middle School Family Group or School Improvement Team

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://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:

- Implemented the Jaguar Pride Plan, rewarding student behavior
- Celebrated students that receive a positive office referral
- Planned and attended field trips to reinforce topics taught within the classroom
- Celebrated staff through Prowl Awards
- Connected with community partners to fund a variety of culture building and school pride events (school beautification projects, staff appreciation events, Day of Giving, etc).
- Planned and hosted a Wellness day with Greg Olsen
- Hosted Family Nights (Powerschool Parent Workshop, Curriculum Night & Annual Title I Family Night, ML Family Night, etc.)

If you have questions about the content of this letter, please contact Larenda Denien at larenda.denien@cms.k12.nc.us or 980-343-6410.

Sincerely,

Larenda Denien