



November 30, 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian:

As a parent/guardian of a student in **Druid Hills Academy**, I am writing this letter to let you know that **Druid Hills Academy**, 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, **Druid Hills 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
- 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 **Druid Hills Academy** this year:

- Provide a positive school climate, under CMS regulation JICK-R, by promoting a safe learning environment free of bullying and harassing behavior.
- The percent of Black and Hispanic 3rd grade students combined who score at the College and Career Ready (CCR) level -- a 4 or 5 -- on the English Language Arts (ELA) EOG will increase from 0% in School Year 2021-22 to 25% in School Year 2022-23 and 50% in School Year 2023-24.
- 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 0% in SY2021-22 to 14% in School Year 2022-23 and 28% in School Year 2023-24.
- We will exceed expected Educator Value Added Assessment System (EVAAS) growth for our overall school index in School Year 2022-23 and School Year 2023-24.
- Percent of students reporting a positive self-perception of their self-efficacy on the Fall Panorama Screener will increase from 55% on the Fall 2021 Panorama Screener (in Grades 3-5) to 61.5% in School Year 2022-23 and 68% in School Year 2023-24.
- Out-of-School Suspension (OSS) disproportionately for Black students will decrease from 10.0% in School Year 2021-22 to 5.0% in School Year 2022-23 and 0% in School Year 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 **Druid Hills Academy** will be implementing:

- Develop and execute a school-wide data analysis protocol for Teacher leaders and MCLs to lead in PLCs

- the analysis and review of attendance, behavior, and common assessment data at least once a week.
- Through intentional PLC models, teachers will collaborate and model instructional practices within planning meetings and across classrooms in order to develop and deliver high leverage core instructional practices within and across grade levels.
 - Provide teachers with supplemental standards aligned, research-based, interventions and acceleration lessons and activities to implement in ALL Block, Flex Block, and workshop.
 - The master schedule was strategically designed to optimize instructional learning time and to ensure time for interventions. Some teachers were strategically assigned to teach a specific class or grade level based on current data.
 - All instruction will be differentiated and data driven. Students will show growth on all school, district, and state assessments. Students in the EC program will receive specialized instruction using research based programming. We will have more EC students participating in the least restrictive environment.
 - Hire an MTSS Interventionist to support teachers with implementing the following evidenced-based interventions to increase overall student performance: I-Ready, Orton Gillingham, and Go 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 *Druid Hills Academy, Beth Marshall* 980-343-5515 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 <https://www.cmsk12.org/druidhillsacademyES> and social media <https://www.instagram.com/dhapanthers2801>
- Volunteer.

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 students. Already, we have:

- Multi Classroom Leaders/Expanded Impact Teacher for grades K-6 these leaders enhance instruction, provide small groups to students and coaching and feedback to teachers throughout the day
- We offer a variety of elective classes for students to choose from
- Small class sizes that provide more 1 on 1 instruction

If you have questions about the content of this letter, please contact **Beth Marshall** (betha.marshall@cms.k12.nc.us), 980-343-5515.

Sincerely,



Beth Marshall