

## Martin Luther King Jr. Middle School

500 Billmark Ave  
Charlotte, NC, 28213

☎980.343.0698

☎980.343.0700

11/20/23

Dear Parent/Guardian:

As a parent/guardian of a student in Martin Luther King Jr. MS, I am writing this letter to let you know that Martin Luther King Jr. MS, 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, Martin Luther King Jr. MS 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 Martin Luther King Jr. MS this year:

- Bullying Prevention: Provide a positive school climate, under CMS regulation JICK-R, by promoting a safe learning environment free of bullying and harassing behaviors.
- Duty Free Lunch: To provide a duty-free lunch period for every teacher on a daily basis.
- Duty-free planning: Provide a duty-free instructional planning time for every teacher under G.S.115C-105.27 and -301.1, with the goal of proving an average of at least five hours of planning time per week, with the maximum extent that the safety and proper supervision of students may allow during regular student contact hours.
- Out-of-School Suspension (OSS) disproportionately for Black students will decrease from 19.5% in SY2021-22 to 14.5% in SY2022-23 and 9.5% in SY2023-24.
- 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 0.8% in SY2021-22 to 14.4% in SY2022-23 and 28% in SY2023-24.

- The percent of students reporting a positive self-perception of their self-efficacy will increase from 34% on the Fall 2021 Panorama Screener (in Grades 6-12) to 42% in [SY2022-23](#) and 50% in [SY2023-24](#).
- We will exceed expected Educator Value Added Assessment System (EVAAS) growth for our overall school index in SY2022-23 and [SY2023-24](#).

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 Martin Luther King Jr. MS will be implementing:

- The school will implement a tiered instructional system that allows teachers to deliver evidence-based instruction aligned with the individual needs of students across all tiers.
- ALL teachers will employ effective classroom management and reinforce classroom rules and procedures by positively teaching them.
- ALL teachers will attend to students' emotional states, will guide students in managing their emotions, and will arrange for support and interventions when necessary.
- The school will develop and implement consistent, intentional, and on-going plans to support student transitions for grade-to-grade and level-to-level.
- A Leadership Team consisting of the principal, teacher-leaders, and other professional staff will meet regularly to review implementation of teaching strategies.
- The school has established a team structure among teachers with specific duties and time for instructional planning
- The principal monitors curriculum and classroom instruction regularly and provides timely, clear, constructive feedback to teachers.
- The LEA/School will regularly look at school performance data and aggregated classroom observation data and use that data to make decisions about school improvement and professional development needs.
- The LEA/School has established a system of procedures and protocols for recruiting, evaluating, rewarding, and replacing staff.
- The school regularly communicates with parents/guardians about its expectations of them and the importance of the curriculum of the home (what parents can do at home to support their children's learning).

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 Jessica Savage, 980-343-0698 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/martinlutherkingjrMS>
- 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:

- Martin Luther King Jr. Middle Website: <https://www.cmsk12.org/martinlutherkingjrMS>

- Graduation requirements: [www.ncpublicschools.org/gradrequirements/](http://www.ncpublicschools.org/gradrequirements/)
- K-12 standards in academic subjects: [www.ncpublicschools.org/curriculum/](http://www.ncpublicschools.org/curriculum/)
- State student achievement test results: [www.ncpublicschools.org/accountability/](http://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:

- Established a school-wide behavior plan to address student behavior
- Created a process for small group instruction, specifically targeting our students who require the most academic support.
- Incorporated a socio-emotional learning curriculum into our academic enrichment block to improve student's self efficacy
- Built in time for professional development and improving the practice of teachers.

If you have questions about the content of this letter, please contact **Jessica Savage, 980 343 0698**.

Sincerely,

Jessica Savage

