Dear Parent/Guardian:

As a parent/guardian of a student in JH Gunn Elementary School, I am writing this letter to let you know that JH Gunn Elementary 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, JH Gunn Elementary 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 JH Gunn Elementary School, 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 -- on the English Language Arts (ELA) EOG will increase from 13.9% in SY2021-22 to 32.8% in SY2022-23 and 50% in SY2023-24. (Aligns to A2.04 and B3.03 and CMS Goal 1)
- The percentage of students reporting a positive self-perception of their self-efficacy will increase from 54% on the Fall 2021 Panorama Screener (in Grades 3-5) to 61% in SY2022-23 and 68% in SY2023-24. (Aligns to A 4.06 and E 1.06 and CMS Guardrail 3)
- Provide 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, to the maximum extent that the safety and proper supervision of students may allow
during regular student contact hours. (B2.03)

● Provide a positive school climate, under CMS regulation JICK-R, by promoting a safe learning environment free of bullying and harassing behaviors. (A4.06)

● Out-of-School Suspension (OSS) disproportionately for Black students will decrease from 28.8% in SY2021-22 to 23.8% in SY2022-23 and 18.8% in SY2023-24. (Aligns to A4.06 and CMS Guardrail 1)

● We will meet or exceed expected Educator Value-Added Assessment System (EVAAS) growth for our overall school index in SY2022-23 and SY2023-24. (Aligns to A4.01 and B3.03 and CMS Goal 4)

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 JH Gunn Elementary School, will be implementing:

● Data driven small group instruction to address learning gaps
● Professional development for teachers addressing teaching students with special needs
● Professional development for teachers and staff addressing literacy instruction
● Continued weekly standards aligned instruction and planning

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 the school at 980-343-6477, 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 classdojo.

● Volunteer.

● Join the PTA 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:

● Ms. Sealey- School Social worker

● Ms. Peterkin- School Counselor

● 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/


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

● Exceeded Student growth for the 2021-2022 school year

● Moved off of the North Carolina Low Performing schools list

If you have questions about the content of this letter, please contact the school at 980-343-6477.
Sincerely,

Dana Pecarro  
JH Gunn Principal