

November 20, 2023

7400 Harrisburg Road
Charlotte, North Carolina 28215

Dear Parent/Guardian:

I hope the school year has started successfully for all of you. As a parent/guardian of a student at JH Gunn Elementary School, I am writing this letter to let you know that JH Gunn has been designated as a Targeted Support & Improvement Additional Targeted Support (TSI-AT) school by the North Carolina State Board of Education. ESSA Section 1111(d)(2) stated that 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 underperforming. This opportunity intends 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 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
- 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 this year:

- Increase the Grade Level Proficiency scores on the End of Grade tests for our 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students in reading, math and science by 10%.
- 75% of students in K-3 will reach benchmark according to DIBELS
- The percent of Black and Hispanic 3rd-grade students combined who score at the College and Career Ready (4 or 5) on the English Language Arts EOG will increase to 50%
- The percentage of students reporting a positive self-perception of their self-efficacy will increase to 68% in SY2023-24.
- Out-of-School Suspension (OSS) disproportionately for Black students will decrease from to 18.8% in 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 JH Gunn will be implementing:

- Flexible small group instruction based on individual student data
- Various after school tutoring programs
- Hiring of additional tutors and interventionists
- Additional planning time for teachers
- Purchase of supplemental resources to support instruction

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).

Phone: 980-343-6477 ■ Fax: 980-343-6527 ■ www.cms.k12.nc.us

- Call Jennifer Eddins, Dean of Students at 980-343-6477, if you have questions or concerns about your student or to set up an appointment to meet with school staff members who work 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
- Volunteer.
- Join the JH Gunn PTA

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://ncreportcards.ondemand.sas.com/src>

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

- Hired 2 tutors, reading teacher and an interventionist
- Created 3 hour planning sessions for teachers
- Established a master schedule that maximizes time for small group instruction
- Host new during and after school opportunities: chess club, soccer, tutoring, Digi-Bridge

If you have questions about the content of this letter, please contact Principal Dana Pecarro at dana.richards@cms.k12.nc.us or 980-343-6477.

Sincerely,


Dana Pecarro
Proud Principal
JH Gunn Elementary