

11-17-2023

Dear Parent or Guardian:

I hope the school year has started successfully for all of you. As a parent/guardian of a student in **Northridge Middle School**, I am writing this letter to let you know that **Northridge Middle School** 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, **Northridge 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 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 **Northridge 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 1.5% in SY2021-22 to 14.8% in SY2022-23 and 28% in SY2023-24. (Aligns to A2.04 and B3.03 and CMS Goal 2)
- We will exceed expected Educator Value Added Assessment System (EVAAS) growth for our overall school index in SY2023-24. (Aligns to A4.01 and B3.03 and CMS Goal 4).
- The percent of students reporting a positive self-perception of their self-efficacy will increase from 39% on the Fall 2021 Panorama Screener to 44.5% in SY2022-23 and 50% in SY2023-24. (Aligns to A4.06 and CMS Guardrail 3)
- Maintain the proportionality of our Out-of-School Suspension (OSS) data for Black students at 10.8% in SY2022-23 and 5.8% SY2023-24. (Aligns to A4.06 and CMS Guardrail 1)
- We will increase our SWD subgroup performance grade from a F to a D or higher by 2024. (Aligns to A 4.01, D 1.02, 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 **Northridge Middle School** will be implementing:

- PLCs will implement consistent and effective processes to implement adopted curriculum, analyze data from common formative and benchmark assessments, model effective instructional practices, and increase student engagement.
- All teachers in all content areas (Core and Encore) will integrate WICOR (Writing, Inquiry, Collaboration, Organization, and Reading) strategies within the district-adopted curriculum to increase student engagement, proficiency and growth.
- Intentional support and coaching will be provided to all teachers who support our Students with Disabilities (SWD), Multilingual (ML), and Talent Development (TD) subgroups. Support will include additional targeted training in strategies and implementation of the Language Live curriculum, planned collaboration sessions (Gen Ed and EC/ML teachers), informal and formal observational feedback, and differentiated coaching.

- Use Hawk Time to implement interventions and enrichment for scholar strengths/growth areas identified through multiple formal and informal data sources and assessments.
- All staff consistently establish, teach, and reinforce rules and procedures in the classroom and other school settings, including a system of rewards and consequences, according to an established school-wide behavior matrix.

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 **Principal Darrell Potts (980-343-5015)** 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
 - Website: <https://www.cmsk12.org/northridgeMS>
 - Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/nrmshawks1>
 - Instagram: @nrms_hawks1
- Volunteer.
- Join the **PTSA** by emailing Ms. Valerie Johnson at nrms.ptsa.28215@gmail.com

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:

- **Robert Bates**- Family Advocate- roberte.bates@cms.k12.nc.us
- **Aida Cordova**- Family Advocate/Interpreter- a1.cordovagonzalez@cms.k12.nc.us
- 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:

- **Provided instructional coaching and professional development to staff.**
- **Implemented strategies to support writing, inquiry, collaboration, organization, and reading (WICOR).**

If you have questions about the content of this letter, please contact **Principal Darrell Potts at darrellj.potts@cms.k12.nc.us or 980-343-5015.**

Sincerely,

Darrell Potts
Principal
Northridge Middle School