

October 15, 2024

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-Graduation Rate (CSI-LG) 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-LG schools in North Carolina are high schools that have a 4-year cohort graduation rate of less than 66.7%. 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-LG 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:

- *The percent of students scoring Grade Level Proficient (GLP) on the Math End of Grade assessments in grades 3-8 will increase from 29.9% in SY 2023-24 to 49.9% in SY 2024-25*
- *The percent of Kindergarten through 2nd grade students scoring at or above benchmark in early literacy as measured by DIBELS will increase from 70% in SY2023-24 to 80% in SY2024-25.*
- *The percent of students scoring College and Career Ready (CCR) on reading End of Grade assessments in grades 3-8 will increase from 14.1% in SY2023-24 to 24.1% in SY2024-25.*
- *The percent of students scoring Grade Level Proficient (GLP) on the Reading End of Grade assessments in grades 3-8 will increase from 31.4% in SY 2023-24 to 46.4% in SY 2024-25*

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:

- *Ensuring engaged classrooms with qualified teaching staff*
- *Monthly parent engagement events*
- *Use of Parent Square to keep open lines of communication between school and home*
- *Use data to drive our instructional practices to meet all learning needs*

Parent engagement is at the heart of our school improvement efforts. Here are some ways you can help:

- 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 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 the progress your student is making and attend meetings with your student's teacher(s).
- Keep track of our website and social media sites *[insert links]*.
- Volunteer and sign up to volunteer here - **[www.cmsvolunteers.com](http://www.cmsvolunteers.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:

- ***Ms. James, School social worker: [lashanna1.james@cms.k12.nc.us](mailto:lashanna1.james@cms.k12.nc.us)***
- 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>

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

Sincerely,

Beth Marshall

Principal