

October 1st, 2019

Dear Parent/Guardian:

I hope the school year has started successfully for all of you. There is already evidence of continuing of the great work that was started at Allenbrook last year. With our focus on building a strong community, prioritizing relationships and meeting the social-emotional needs of students, we are positioned to see gains in academic outcomes for all students. I hope you are already seeing the results of these efforts in the growth of your student.

As a parent/guardian of a student in Allenbrook Elementary School, I am writing this letter to let you know that Allenbrook, 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, Allenbrook Elementary 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 Allenbrook Elementary this year:

- Increase proficiency in literacy, math, and science.
 - Math:
 - 3rd grade- 60% proficient
 - 4th grade- 60% proficient
 - 5th grade - 36% proficient

- ELA:
 - 3rd grade-
 - 4th grade- 44% proficient
 - 5th grade- 32% proficient
- Science:
 - 5th grade- 50% proficient
- Implement a tiered instructional system across academic years
 - 80% of students meet or exceed growth goals
- Implement consistent, high quality instruction in Social Emotional Learning
 - at least 51% of students report positively to the question “How often are you able to pull yourself out of a bad mood?”
 - at least 48% of students report positively to the question “How often are you able to remain calm even if someone was bothering you or saying bad things?”
- Improve student attendance
 - Increase Average Daily Attendance to greater than 95%
 - Decrease chronic absenteeism to less than 12%
- Explicitly teach and reinforce self-discipline to improve student behavior
 - Decrease discipline referrals to less than 500
 - Decrease the percent of students with 6 or more referrals to less than 8%
 - Decrease out of school suspension to less than 15
- Implement a tiered instructional system to meet the needs of Students with Disabilities and English Language learners so that 80% of these students meet or exceed growth goals
 - English Learners
 - Math- 50% proficient
 - ELA- 50% proficient
 - Students with Disabilities
 - Math- 25% proficient
 - ELA- 25% proficient
- Increase parent involvement and engagement by establishing a school community council.
 - Parent Survey- 90% of families agree/strongly agree with the statement, “I would recommend Allenbrook to a friend or neighbor.”
 - 25% of families join the PTA
 - 1 parent per grade level serves on the School Community Council
 - 80% of families attend at least 1 school event focused on curriculum
 - 100% of families participate in at least 1 in person parent-teacher conference

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 Allenbrook will be implementing:

- EL Education Curriculum for Literacy in Grades K-2 and Collaborative Literacy Curriculum in grades 3-5
- Caring School Community curriculum to address social and emotional learning needs
- Implementation of SIPPS, a phonics intervention designed to support students in learning to read
- Implementation of small groups to support social skills development
- Increased community partnerships including HEART Math Tutoring, Read A Book Earn A Book, TutorMate and Above and Beyond After School
- Partnership with school district and outside experts to provide ongoing professional development for staff
- Curriculum nights held during each semester to share student data and ways you can help at home

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 Rebecca Ollie at 980-343-6004 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://allenbrookelementaryschool.wearecms.com/>
 - Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/AllenbrookElementary/>

- Volunteer (examples include: coming in to read with your child and/or another child, participate in a lesson, eating lunch with your child, helping in the media center, etc.). We welcome other ideas and please contact Mr. Neill if you are interested.
- Join the PTA by visiting allenbrook.memberhub.store or completing a membership form in the main office.

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:

- Increased our PTA membership from last year
- Reduced the number of students receiving office referrals
- Increased the number of community partners and school volunteers
- Increased out of school programming and clubs
- Lowered average class sizes
- Created a system for every student to receive literacy interventions four days per week

If you have questions about the content of this letter, please contact Katharine Bonasera at katharineb.bonasera@cms.k12.nc.us or 980-343-6004.

Sincerely,



Katharine Bonasera

Principal

Allenbrook Elementary