

MINT HILL MIDDLE

11501 Idlewild Road
Matthews, NC 28105
980.343.5439 (phone)
980.343.5442 (fax)

17 November 2023

Dear Parent / Guardian:

As a parent / guardian of a student at Mint Hill Middle School, I am writing this letter to let you know that Mint Hill has been designated as a Targeted Support & Improvement-Consistently Underperforming (TSI-CU) school by the North Carolina State Board of Education. ESSA Section 1111(d)(2), North Carolina had to identify schools for targeted support and improvement. TSI-CU schools in North Carolina have student subgroup(s) that are consistently underperforming. 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-CU school, Mint Hill Middle 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; and Family and Community Engagement.

We have set the following goals for Mint Hill Middle this year:

- We will increase stakeholders' sense of connection and belonging to the school by providing greater socioemotional supports for all students along with enhanced communications and increased opportunities for input. (E1.06)
- Duty Free Lunch: To provide a duty-free lunch period for every teacher on a daily basis. (Aligns to A4.06)
- Duty-free planning: Provide a duty-free instructional planning time for every teacher under G.S.115C-105.27 and -301.1, with the goal of providing an average of at least five hours of planning time per week, with the maximum extent that the safety and proper supervision of students may allow during regular student contact hours. (A2.04)
- Bullying Prevention: Provide a positive school climate, under CMS regulation JICK-R, by promoting a safe learning environment free of bullying and harassing behaviors. (A4.06)
- The percentage of 8th grade students who score at the College and Career (CCR) level - 4 or 5 - on the Grade 8 Mathematics EOG will increase from 16.4 % in 2022-2023 to 28% in 2023-2024. (A2.04, B3.03, and CMS Goal 2)
- Mint Hill Middle School will exceed EVAAS growth in 2023-2024. (4.01 and CMS Goal 4)
- Out-of-School Suspension (OSS) disproportionately for Black students will decrease from 19.3% in 2022-23 to 0.1 % in 2023-24. (A4.06 and CMS Guardrail 1)
- The percent of students reporting a positive self-perception of their engagement will increase from 32 % on Panorama Screener (in Grades 6-12) to 43% in 2023-24. (A4.06 and CMS Guardrail 3)
- The percent of students in grades 6-8 participating in a World Languages course will increase from 17.2% in 2021-22 to 33.6 % in 2022-23 and 50.0 % in 2023-24. (CMS Guardrail 2)
- The percent of students in grades 6-8 participating – taking one or more – Visual or Performing Arts course will increase from 80.7% in 2021-22 to 85.7% 2022-23 and to 90.7% in 2023-24. (CMS Guardrail 2)
- We will increase our SWD subgroup performance grade from a F to a D or higher by 2024. (A4.01, D1.02, and CMS Goal 4)

School Improvement Plan Indicators / CMS Goals are listed after each goal above. To view the Mint Hill Middle School Improvement Plan 2023-24, go to <http://www.indistar.org/> . The username and password is GuestS16794.

Our students need to experience higher achievement levels, but it will require hard work on the part of staff, students and families. Below are some strategies Mint Hill Middle will be implementing. We will:

- Utilize teacher collaboration processes (PLCs) to specifically incorporate ideas in plans to shift from teacher- direction to student-ownership of lessons in all content areas;
- As a part of Math and ELA PLCs, teachers, assigned administrators, and support staff will engage in conversations about

what specific content / examples need to be explicitly taught / modeled in order to provide students with clarity on essential topics in each lesson. Examples and notes will be included in daily lesson plans;

- Employ necessary scaffolding and culturally-responsive strategies to make lessons more meaningful and engaging to students;
- Engage in RELAY / NCILA professional development to increase leader capacity around instructional best practices;
- Coach teachers and teacher leaders to continually improve their teaching and leadership through reflective growth;
- Use assessment data to differentiate instruction and provide small group teaching to assist all students in reaching mastery;
- Implement the Out of School Tutoring program to provide additional instructional time to students based on need to increase overall performance of Students with Disabilities (SWD);
- Address attendance concerns / chronic absenteeism through a [tiered attendance plan](#) for students with significant attendance issues. [link to plan: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1oKb9L42b8o9x2uZfj2-ptUXucf7WbKCRpGBr_zxnMAc/edit];
- Implement the Caring School Curriculum and Capturing Kids' Hearts (CKH) to reduce incidents of in school and out of school suspensions; and
- Increase parental and community engagement in the school through volunteerism, PTSA, SIT, and other means.

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 or email your child's grade level counselor 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. Our counselors are:
 - Kelly Holmes, kelly1.holmes@cms.k12.nc.us, 980-343-5439 - 6th grade (Last Name M - Z) / 7th grade
 - Christina Brown, christinah.brown@cms.k12.nc.us, 980-343-5439 - 6th grade (Last Name A - L) / 8th grade
- Monitor your student's work completion and grades in PowerSchool and Canvas. Make sure that your student is prepared, at school on time, and attends school each day.
- Monitor ParentSquare for timely information about everything going on at the school.
- Monitor the progress that your student is making and attend meetings with your student's teacher(s).
- Keep track of our website at <https://www.cmsk12.org/minthillMS> and social media sites.
- Volunteer. Call Eileen Short in the office for more information.
- Join the PTSA or our School Improvement Team.

Preparing our students so that they can succeed is not easy and is a group effort. Here are some resources available to help:

- School Resources: <http://schools.cms.k12.nc.us/minthillMS/Pages/SchoolResources.aspx>
- 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(s). We have already built strong relationships with Capturing Kids' Hearts, completed first quarter benchmark assessments to inform our ongoing instruction, and implemented both academic and behavioral incentives to improve student motivation. As noted above, this is a group effort, and I hope that you will join us in this work through your support of your student(s) and Mint Hill Middle School and through your involvement at the school and in school-supported events in the community. There are great things going on at Mint Hill Middle, and they will only get better with your involvement. Join us!

If you have questions about the content of this letter, please contact Steve Drye at steven.drye@cms.k12.nc.us or 980-343-5439.

Sincerely,

Steve Drye, Principal