

October 14, 2024

Dear Parent/Guardian:

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

\*School climate: Provide a positive school climate, under CMS regulation JICK-R, by promoting a safe learning environment free of bullying and harassing behaviors. (A4.06, E1.06)

\*The percent of Black and Hispanic 3rd grade students combined who score at the College and Career Ready (CCR) level -- a 4 or 5 -- on the English Language Arts (ELA) EOG did increase from 1.7% in SY2021-22 to 25.9% in SY2022-23 and 35% in SY2023-24. (Aligns to A2.04 and B3.03 and CMS Goal 1)

\*We did 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 engagement did increase from 66% on the Fall 2022 Panorama Screener (in Grades 3-5) to 71% in SY2022-23 and 76% in SY2023-24. (Aligns to A4.06 and CMS Guardrail 3)

\*Out-of-School Suspension (OSS) disproportionately for Black students did decrease from 10.1% in SY2021-22 to 5.1% in SY2022-23 and 0% in SY2023-24. (Aligns to A4.06 and CMS Guardrail 1)

\*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 proving 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. (Aligns to A2.04)

-Principal Rae

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 programs University Park Creative Arts Elementary School will be implementing:

- Try Once which is a reading program geared toward all kindergarten learners.
- HEART Math Tutoring which is a math program geared toward 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> grade learners.
- Interventions for all learners who are in the lowest 10% of the school's reading and math composite level.
- BCDI which is a literacy program for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade learners.
- Intentional small-group reading and math services for kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> grade learners.
- NOW Tutoring program which is a virtual reading program.
- Partnerships with several after-school programs.

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 the school 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 <https://www.cmsk12.org/universityparkES>.
- Volunteer.

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:

- 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>
- Graduation requirements: [www.ncpublicschools.org/gradrequirements/](http://www.ncpublicschools.org/gradrequirements/)

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

- Open houses and curriculum nights throughout the year.
- Monthly newsletters
- Parent-Teacher conferences in October, November, April, and throughout the year as needed.
- Quarterly awards ceremonies
- ParentSquare communications

If you have questions about the content of this letter, please contact University Park Creative Arts Elementary School.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Shanna Rae  
Principal