Date: Nov. 26, 2024

Dear Parent/Guardian:

I hope the school year has started successfully for all of you. As a parent/guardian of a student in Cotswold Elementary, I am writingthis letter to let you know that ***Cotswold Elementary*** 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) stated that North Carolina had to identify schools for targeted support and improvement. TSI-CU schools in North Carolina are those that have a subgroup that are consistently 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-CU school ***Cotswold Elementary***, is required to develop a comprehensive plan that specifically addresses how the school will improve student achievement with the identified subgroups of Hispanic students and students with disabilities. 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:

* Social and Emotional Learning
* Climate and School Culture
* 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 ***Cotswold Elementary*** this year:

* Provide a 30-minute duty-free lunch period for every teacher on a daily basis
* Provide a positive school climate, under CMS regulation JICK-R, by promoting a safe learning environment free of bullying and harassing behaviors
* Provide 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, to the maximum extent that the safety and proper supervision of students may allow during regular student contact hours.
* The percent of Black 3rd grade students scoring grade level proficient (GLP) on the end of grade reading assessment will increase from 43.4% in 2023-24 to 50% in 2024-25.
* The percent of Hispanic 3rd grade students scoring grade level proficient (GLP) on the end of grade reading assessment will increase from 30% in 2023-24 to 50% in 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 58% in SY2023-24 to 75% in SY2024-25.
* The percent of students scoring College and Career Ready (CCR) on reading End of Grade assessments in grades 3-5 will increase from 34.1% in SY2023-24 to 42% in SY2024-25.
* The school will retain 90% of highly effective licensed classroom teachers throughout the 2024-25.
* We will decrease the percent of students who are chronically absent from 29.15% in the 23-24SY to 15% in 2024-25.
* Out-of-School Suspension (OSS) disproportionately for Black students will decrease from 32.3% in SY2023-24 to 15% in 2024-2025 SY.
* We will increase our students with disabilities and Hispanic subgroup performance grade from a F to a D or higher in 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 ***Cotswold Elementary*** will be implementing:

* ***Instructional leaders will clearly identify, monitor, and assess the expected instructional framework for core instruction (Tier I). For example: standards based collaborative planning, balanced literacy framework, math best practices, Caring Schools curriculum, and Inquiry Based Learning instruction.***
* ***The leadership team will establish an observation system and walkthrough data monthly to identify trend data, assess fidelity of collection to identify school-based and differentiated professional development needs.***
* ***Establish a process for providing immediate feedback and holding coaching conversations for teaching and learning.***
* ***All certified staff will complete quarterly professional development on MTSS practices at the core, supplemental and intensive levels, the updated Standard Treatment Protocol (STP) and Targeted Supported Instruction.***
* ***Assess and monitor the structure of our MTSS framework and TSI work to address the effectiveness of supplemental and intensive intervention plans.***
* ***Teachers will use common assessments and quarterly data to identify groups of students that have not mastered specific core content. We will use flexible grouping to remediate, provide extra practice, and enrich students to enhance understanding of the targeted core objectives.***
* ***MTSS Leadership team will meet to analyze and discuss data of our students on supplement and intensive plans.***
* ***TSI professional development will be held.***
* ***All subgroups will be provided with quality grade level, rigorous instruction daily.***

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*** ***Parent Square your child’s homeroom teacher***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/cotswoldES>
* Volunteer.
* Join the Cougar PTA: [www.cougarpta.com](http://www.cougarpta.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:

* 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://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:

 ● Open Up Resources (Math)

 ● Caring Schools Curriculum

 ● EL Curriculum

 ● Our staff has completed MTSS PD

 ● Support Staff on schedules to be proactive and support teachers and students

If you have questions about the content of this letter, please contact Alicia Hash **at** **aliciaghash@cms.k12.nc.us** **or *980-343-6720***.

Sincerely,

***Alicia Hash***

***Principal***