



J.M. Alexander Middle School

12010 Hambright Road  
Huntersville, North Carolina 28078

11/22/24

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I hope the school year has started successfully for all of you. As a parent/guardian of a student in JM Alexander Middle School, you are receiving this letter to let you know that JM Alexander Middle School has been designated as a Targeted Support & Improvement Additional Targeted Support (TSI-AT) 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-AT schools in North Carolina are those that have a subgroup that is 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-AT school, JM Alexander Middle 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 our school's progress. 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
- Family and Community Engagement

We have set the following goals for JM Alexander Middle School this year:

- The number of OSS incidents will decrease for our Black/Hispanic scholars with at least 1 day of OSS from 201 in SY 2023-2024 to 100 in SY 2024-2025.(Aligns to A1.07, A4.06, and CMS Guardrail 2
- The percent of Chronic Absenteeism in SY 2023-2024, we had a total of 34.6% of our scholars with 10+ unexcused absences, and in 2024-2025 we want to reduce the number of scholars with 10+ unexcused absences to 30%.(Aligns to A1.07, A4.06, and CMS Guardrail 3)
- The percent of scholars scoring CCR (College and Career Ready) on Math 1 Assessments will increase from 51.1% in SY 2023-2024 to 55% in SY 2024-2025.(Aligns to A2.04 and B3.03 and CMS Goal 3)
- The percentage of scholars scoring CCR (College and Career Ready) on Reading End of Grade Assessments in grades 6-8 will increase from 13.5% in 2023-2024 to 20% in 2024-2025.(Aligns to A2.04, B3.03, and CMS Goal 2)

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 JM Alexander Middle School will be implementing:

- Capturing Kids Hearts to support our goal for reducing the number of Out of School Suspensions.
- Teacher Leader Pathway to support our goal of recruiting and retaining effective teachers
- Targeted Grade Level planning to include unpacking standards, modeling of best practices and exemplars
- School-wide Coaching and Feedback professional development and support
- Data Analysis and Action Planning
- Fall and Spring Curriculum Nights to promote Parent Education and Engagement
- iReady Math/Reading- provides each student with a personalized learning path for both reading and mathematics and it's based on their Diagnostic results.

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 JMA at 980-343-3830 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 at <https://www.cmsk12.org/jmalexanderms>.
- Volunteer.
- Join the PTSA and/or SIT (School Improvement Team).

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.

If you have questions about the content of this letter, please contact Ms. Love at [gwenr.love@cms.k12.nc.us](mailto:gwenr.love@cms.k12.nc.us) or 980-343-3830.

Sincerely,

***Tracey Hager***

Principal