

11/30/23

Dear Parent/Guardian:

I hope the school year has started successfully for all of you. As a parent/guardian of a student in Oakhurst STEAM Academy, I am writing this letter to let you know that Oakhurst STEAM Academy, 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, Oakhurst STEAM Academy, 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 Oakhurst STEAM Academy, this year:

- Maintain a total number of Out-of-School Suspensions (OSS) for students at 5 suspensions or less for SY22-23 and SY23-24. (Aligns to A4.06 and CMS Guardrail 1)
- Provide a duty-free lunch period for every teacher on a daily basis. (A4.06)
- Provide a positive school climate, under CMS regulation JICK-R, by promoting a safe learning environment free of bullying and harassing behaviors as indicated on the Student Engagement Survey. (A4.06)
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- 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. (A2.04)
- 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 will increase from 15.8% in SY2021-22 to 50% in SY 2023-24. (Aligns to A2.04 and B3.03 and CMS Goal 1)
- The percent of students reporting a positive self-perception of their self-efficacy will increase

from 55% on the Fall 2021 Panorama Screener (in Grades 3-5) to 68% in SY2023-24. (Aligns to A4.06 and CMS Guardrail 3)

- We will meet or 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)

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 Oakhurst STEAM Academy will be implementing:

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 Ms. Roberts or Ms. Smith at 980-343-6482 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 <https://www.cmsk12.org/oakhurststeamacademyES>
- Volunteer.
- Join the Oakhurst PTA or School Instructional 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. Already, we have:

- A teacher in every classroom so we are fully staffed !

If you have questions about the content of this letter, please contact Ms. Roberts or Mrs. Smith at 980-343-6482.

Sincerely,

***Kimberly R. Roberts***