

Whitewater Middle

10201 Running Rapids Rd.
(980) 344-3400

November 29, 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian:

As a parent/guardian of a student in Whitewater Middle School, I am writing this letter to let you know that Whitewater Middle School has been designated as a Targeted Support & Improvement Additional Targeted Support (TSI-AT) school by the North Carolina State Board of Education. As stated in ESSA Section 1111(d)(2), 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 under-performing. 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-AT school, Whitewater 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 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
- Family and Community Engagement

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

- Goal 1:
 - Goal 2.1: 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 19% in 2022-2023 to **28%** in 2023-2024.
 - Goal 4.1: The percent of students in Grades 6-8 that have a growth projection that met their annual growth projection in Mathematics on (MAP) assessment will increase from 47% in June 2023 to **70%** in June 2024.
- Goal 2:
 - By June 2024 Whitewater Middle School will retain 95% of staff.
- Goal 3
 - By June 2024 Whitewater Middle School will secure 2 community partners that will help to grow and develop the Environmental STEM Magnet program.

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 Whitewater Middle School will be implementing:

- After school Tutoring
- Data driven Whole/Small group Instruction
- Intervention block
- Coaching Cycles to develop the instructional pedagogy of teachers using Get Better Faster

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 your child's grade level administrator at (980)344-3400 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.
 - 6th grade - Eaton
 - 7th grade - Davenport
 - 8th grade - McDaniel
- 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.
- Volunteer.
- Join the WMS PTA

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:

- Community In School(CIS)
- 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://www.dpi.nc.gov/data-reports/school-report-cards>

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

- Field Trips
- Groups(Mentor and Organizational)
- Professional Development for Teachers
- Use of Expanded Impact Teachers and Multiclass Leaders to support Beginning Teachers

If you have questions about the content of this letter, please contact Principal Tammillye Ward at tammillye.ward@cms.k12.nc.us or call at (980)343-3400.

Sincerely,

Tammillye Ward

