



Williston Middle School

Principal: Dewey Furr

Assistant Principals: Kimberly Clark, Jill Larson, Alisha Sheesley

401 S. 10th Street
Wilmington, NC 28401
(910) 815-6906

August 28, 2020

Dear Williston Middle School Parent/Guardian:

I hope the school year has started successfully for all of you. As a parent/guardian of a student in New Hanover County Schools, I am writing this letter to let you know that Williston 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, Williston 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 Williston Middle School this year:

- Using EVAAS Data, all students will demonstrate one year's worth of growth in Reading and Math, by interacting and participating with evidenced based programs and strategies, such as IReady.

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 Williston Middle School will be intentional in developing:

- A school community in which all stakeholders, including students, staff, families, and community members, collaborate to provide a safe, nurturing, and equitable learning environment where all members are empowered to reach their highest academic, social, emotional and personal potential.
- Purchase evidence based strategies that are targeted and supportive to our entire school community
- Continue to offer high school credit courses in 8th grade and offer compacted math classes in 6th and 7th
- Engage staff in valuable PLC's where high achievement is the foundation of the collaboration

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 school counselor at 910-815-6906 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://williston.nhcs.net/> and @WillistonMiddleSchoolTigers on Facebook and Instagram and @WillistonTigers on Twitter .
- Volunteer.
- Join the Williston 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:

- 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://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:

Worked hard to ensure our school is sparkling clean and have processes and procedures ready for students when they return, new gym lobby floor, and outside beautification to the front of the building.

If you have questions about the content of this letter, please contact **Dewey Furr** at dewey.furr@nhcs.net or **910-815-6906**..

Sincerely,

Mr. Dewey Furr
Principal