



ROLAND-GRISE MIDDLE SCHOOL

A School of Distinction

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Dear 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 Roland-Grise 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, Roland-Grise 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 Roland-Grise Middle School this year:

- Teams of special educators, general education teachers and related service providers meet regularly to enhance/unify instructional planning and program implementation for students with disabilities.
- All staff are responsive to students' cultural backgrounds and incorporate culturally relevant material in their classrooms.
- All teachers are attentive to student's emotional states, guide students in managing their emotions and arrange for supports and interventions.

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/steps Roland-Grise Middle School will be implementing:

- Implementation of a school wide Mastery period for targeted supports and interventions for students
- Using Second Step and other lessons during Mastery to support students' social and emotional learning

- Creating small groups during Mastery for intensive remediation, review and acceleration in ELA and Math
- During remote learning, using Google Classroom as our main Learning Management System for continuity and familiarity for students and parents from grade to grade
- Creating accelerated math options for students in all grade levels to foster increased learning
- Utilizing our Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) team to work with Tier II and Tier III students on academic and behavioral interventions
- Specific professional development for staff focused on culturally responsive teaching and the history of underrepresented populations
- Reorganization of our Special Education department with new staff in critical positions to best support our students with disabilities
- Hiring of a new English as a Second Language Teacher (ESL) to support our students for whom English is not their primary language

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 the Main Office at 910.350.2136 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 (either virtually or in person) each day.
- Monitor your student's homework.
- Monitor the progress your student is making and attend meetings with your student's teacher(s).
- Follow your child's teachers website and Google Classroom as well our website and social media sites
- Join the Roland-Grise PTSO

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:

- Roland-Grise school website: www.rolandgrise.nhcs.net
- 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:

- Issued over 300 devices for student use during remote learning and as part of our Virtual Academy
- Implemented a daily schedule where students attend remote classes and engage in both synchronous and asynchronous learning
- Created and implemented lessons during Mastery class that focus on student's SEL needs and have worked to support students as they begin the year remotely due to Covid-19
- Met with dozens of students remotely to offer counseling and related family support
- Hired over ten new staff members in key academic areas

If you have questions about the content of this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me at charles.broadfoot@nhcs.net or by calling 910.350.2136.

Sincerely,

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