



Castle Hayne Elementary

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Principal

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Dear Parents,

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 Castle Hayne Elementary 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, Castle Hayne Elementary 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 Castle Hayne Elementary School this year:

- By June 2021, as measured by our performance composite scores, Castle Hayne Elementary School will increase our school performance by 5% from 62% (2018-2019) to 65%.
- By June 2021, Castle Hayne Elementary School will make expected growth across all subgroups in reading and math as measured by the 2020-2021 NC End of Grade Test.

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 Castle Hayne Elementary School will be implementing:

- Each grade level will have a weekly PLC meeting that is attended by regular education and special education teachers and facilitated by the Instructional Coach
- The Instructional Coach will provide teachers with ongoing professional development on district instructional initiatives such as Reading Fundamentals and support teachers with aligning these units to their instruction. Special education teachers will also be trained.
- Common Assessments will be created during PLC meetings that align with the instructional units. Teachers will determine the schedule and deadline for administering the common assessments as well as the date they intend to review student data. Special education teachers will support students according to their IEP accommodations.

- Teachers will show evidence of standards alignment for all assignments, instruction, and assessments during walkthroughs, observations, lesson plan review, etc.
- Grades 3-5 AIG students, and grades 3-5 students who demonstrate advanced performance, will receive small group, differentiated instruction, in the general education classroom or AIG room using the research based William and Mary Challenging Math and Reading lessons.
- Develop and implement a school-wide MTSS protocol under the leadership of the MTSS Coordinator that is designed to be responsive to the academic, behaviors, and social needs of all students.

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 teacher 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).
- Check your child's grades in PowerSchool (grades 3-5).
- Keep track of our website and social media sites castlehayne.nhcs.net.
- Volunteer once restrictions are lifted.
- Join the Parent Teacher Association

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:

- increased student engagement in virtual instruction from the spring semester
- implemented a consistent reading program, Reading Fundamentals, in all grade levels
- increased our availability to support students in Remote Learning by offering evening office hours
- created options for families

If you have questions about the content of this letter, please contact your child's teacher or Mrs. May at christianne.may@nhcs.net or 910-602-4970.

Sincerely,

Christianne May

Christianne May, Principal