



**Butner-Stem Middle School**  
**501 East D Street**  
**Butner, NC 27509**  
**(919) 575-9429**

November 16, 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian:

I hope the school year has started successfully for all of you. I am writing this letter to let you know that Butner-Stem 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, Butner-Stem 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:

- 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
- Social and Emotional Well Being
- Classroom Management

We have set the following goals for Butner-Stem Middle School this year:

- By June of 2023, 70% of families will engage in the academic progress of their child as measured by participation records.
- By June 2023, students in all groups/subgroups will achieve proficiency targets in reading as measured by EOG measures.
- By June 2023, students in all groups/subgroups will achieve proficiency targets in Math as measured by EOG measures.
- By June 2023, BSMS will incorporate a dedicated time for SEL into the daily schedule in order to create a positive school climate as measured by a variety of student surveys.
- By June 2023, students in all groups/subgroups will achieve proficiency targets in 8th Grade Science as measured by EOG measures.

Our students need to experience higher achievement levels, but it will require hard work on the part of the staff, students, and families. Here are some strategies Butner-Stem Middle School will be implementing this year to assist with student achievement:

- Reading 20 minutes at school and 20 minutes at home each day for our Vision 2021 reading initiative.
- Utilizing iREADY in class and at home weekly to close student achievement gaps
- Building relationships with staff during morning meetings for student success throughout the school year
- Familiarizing yourself with the 30 prefixes, 30 suffixes, and 30 root words that are being utilized in all core classes
- Implementing a 30-minute intervention block daily to address student needs and achievement gaps

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 child are aware of academic expectations set for your student this school year. A list of learning objectives in a student-friendly language is available from your child's teacher(s).
- Call your child's homeroom teacher if you have questions or concerns about your student or set up an appointment to meet with a school staff member who will be working with your child.
- Make sure that your child is prepared and attends school each day.
- Make sure your child is present the entire school day of 8:20 a.m. to 3:40 p.m. daily
- Monitor your child's classwork and homework by checking Google Classroom and Haiku
- Follow your child's teachers on REMIND for important information regarding class
- Monitor the progress your child is making by monitoring the parent portal platform and attending quarterly parent-teacher conferences with your child's teacher(s).
- Read our monthly Smore newsletter
- Keep track of our website and social media sites
  - School Website: [bsms.gcs.k12.nc.us](http://bsms.gcs.k12.nc.us)
  - Download the REMIND App to get text message alerts
    - 6th Grade: @bsmsco2028
    - 7th Grade: @bsmsco2027
    - 8th Grade: @bsmsco2026
  - Facebook: [facebook.com/butnerstemmiddleschool](https://www.facebook.com/butnerstemmiddleschool)
  - Twitter: @bsmsfalcons
  - Instagram: @bsmsfalcons
- Volunteer at our school as opportunities arise
- Join the Twin Talon Club

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>

If you have questions about the content of this letter, please feel free to contact me at [clarka@gcs.k12.nc.us](mailto:clarka@gcs.k12.nc.us) or (919)-575-9429.

Sincerely,

Ashley Clark  
Principal