



Sandy Grove Middle School

Prowling for Perfection



300 Chason Road
Lumber Bridge, NC 28357
Telephone (910) 875-3559 Fax (910) 875-3632

Dr. Franklin Bowden, Principal Kelvin Bibbs, Asst. Principal Tiffany Tyler, Asst. Principal

October 23, 2024

Dear Parent/Guardian:

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

- One hundred percent of our staff will use data to plan and implement lessons that prepare students to be college, career, and life-ready as measured by MTSS implementation.
- One hundred percent of our staff will participate in professional development opportunities that support literacy, technology, math, science, and writing.
- Every student will be safe, respectful, and responsible.

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 Sandy Grove Middle School will be implementing:

- A school wide intervention schedule
- Small group instruction
- Blended learning
- Close Reading
- Thinking maps
- Anticipation guides
- Literacy-based assessments

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 Dr. Franklin Bowden at (910) 875-3559 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://sgms.hcs.k12.nc.us/> or on Twitter at @sgmspanther
- Volunteer.

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:

- Our Parent Resource page: <https://sites.google.com/hcs.k12.nc.us/ses/parent-information>
- 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:

- Began our small group interventions.
- Began the MTSS data collection and analysis process.
- Engaged staff in professional development.

If you have questions about the content of this letter, please contact Dr. Franklin Bowden at (910) 875-3559 or by email at: fbowden@hcs.k12.nc.us.

Sincerely,

Dr. Franklin Bowden
Principal