



New Hanover County Public Schools
Snipes Academy of Arts & Design
2150 Chestnut Street
Wilmington, NC 28405
910-251-6175(O)/910-815-6974(F)

Dr. Stephanie Willis, Principal
Melanie Rhyne, Assistant Principal
Kelly Crowley, Assistant Principal

October 29, 2024

Dear Parent/Guardian:

I am writing this letter to notify you that Snipes Academy has been designated as a federally identified Targeted Support & Improvement Additional Targeted Support (TSI-AT) school by the North Carolina State Board of Education.

School Performance Grades are based 80 percent on our school's achievement score (student proficiency) and 20 percent on students' academic growth. At Snipes Academy, our achievement score for the 2023-2024 school year is based on how well our students performed on End of Grade Reading and Math Tests Grades 3-5 and the 5th Grade Science End of Grade Test. We received a School Performance Grade of D and a growth designation of Exceeded Expected Growth for the 2023-2024 school year.

In addition, per the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Section 1111(d)(2), schools receive the federal identification of TSI-AT in North Carolina by having one or more of the following subgroups receive a subgroup performance grade score at or below the lowest 5% of schools across the state during the 2021-2022 academic year; and being identified as a consistently underperforming subgroup in 2019-2020. Subgroup performance scores are provided for the following subgroups of students: (1) Students with Disabilities, (2) Economically Disadvantaged, (3) Black, (4) White, (5) Hispanic, (6) Asian-Pacific Islander, (7) Multi-racial, and (8) English Learners. At our school, we did not meet the requirements with our Students with Disabilities subgroup.

As a designated TSI-AT school, we are required to develop a comprehensive improvement plan that specifically addresses how the school will improve student achievement. The plan will also include strategies that our district will employ to support our improvement efforts. The comprehensive improvement plan will address the following areas:

"We do what is RIGHT, not what is EASY"



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- Standards-aligned Instruction
- Professional Learning Communities (PLCs)
- Recruitment & Retention of Effective Teachers
- Implementation of a Tiered Instructional System
- Data-Driven Decision Making
- Student Support Services
- Family and Community Engagement

We have set the following goals for our school this year:

- Meet or Exceed Expected Growth
- Increase School Performance Grade to a C
- Increase overall proficiency on all End-of-Grade Tests to a minimum of 50% proficient
- Implement district curriculums for reading (Wit & Wisdom) and math (Eureka Math Squared) with integrity

Parent engagement is at the heart of our school improvement efforts. Here are some ways you can help:

- Ensure you and your child know the academic expectations for this school year
- Schedule a conference if you have questions or concerns about your child's performance
- Make sure that your child is prepared and attends school on time, each day
- Monitor your child's homework
- Monitor the progress your child is making and attend meetings with your child's teacher(s)
- Attend Family Engagement Events
- Volunteer

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Additionally, listed below are a few 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://www.dpi.nc.gov/data-reports/school-report-cards>

We are committed to improving student performance. It is important to remember that just as no one single score or grade tells the whole story of a student, neither does it tell you everything about the performance of our school or the opportunities that our school provides. The intent of receiving these designations is to improve educational outcomes for all students, close achievement gaps, increase equity, and improve the quality of instruction. We're excited about this school year and are working hard to make it a success for your child.

If you have any questions about the content of this letter, please contact Dr. Stephanie Willis, Principal of Snipes Academy, at 910-251-6175 or stephanie.willis@nhcs.net.

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