



2021-2022

Dear Parent/Guardian:


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

- *School Performance Composite Goal: By June 2022, Northern Guilford Middle School will increase the school performance composite grade by 5% from 61.2 to 65.2.*
- *Reduce Lost Instructional Days: By June 2022, Northern Guilford Middle School will reduce the number of lost instructional days due to In and Out of School Suspensions by 10% from 236 (2018-2019) to 213 days*
- *Achievement Gap Goal: By June 2022, Northern Guilford Middle School will decrease the achievement gap in our school performance composite by 20%, reducing the gap from 24.8 to 19.8.*
- *Teacher Capacity: By June 2022, Northern Guilford Middle School will reduce the number of teachers not meeting expectations from 2 to 0 as measured by North Carolina EVAAS.*
- *School Attendance: By June 2023 Northern Guilford Middle School will decrease the reduce chronic absenteeism from 14.8% to 12%.*



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 Northern Guilford Middle School will be implementing:

- *Work in professional learning communities to develop concepts, principles, and skills that will be covered within the unit for units that do not have district-created unpacked standards documents. For those subject areas where unpacked standards are provided, professional learning communities will work collaboratively to develop scope and sequence as to how the content will be covered.*
- *Teachers will work in PLCs to complete an organized PLC planning form 2 times per quarter. This work will support the work of MTSS by looking at Core Instruction and planning for Tier 1 and 2 strategies*
- *Review MTSS supplemental intervention implementation by a review of FastBridge data and NWEA Map data*
- *Teams will send newsletters to parents bi-monthly. Administration will set up Open House, Team Nights and send weekly connect ed phone calls and voice messages. Admin will incorporate Facebook and Twitter into the forms of outreach for families.*
- *Develop and implement form for teachers to collect and organized student behavior data to help identify and prioritize support staff.*
- *Review discipline data in PowerSchool and Educators Handbook during behavior focus Problem Solving Group meetings monthly.*

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 Principal Karen Ellis, 336-605-3342 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://www.gcsnc.com/northern_guilford_middle
- Volunteer.
- Join the Northern Guilford Middle School PTSA

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:

- Northern Guilford Middle School Webpage: https://www.gcsnc.com/northern_guilford_middle
- 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.

If you have questions about the content of this letter, please contact me at school, 336-605-3342.

Sincerely,



Karen R. Ellis

