Tyro Middle School
2946 Michael Rd.
Lexington, NC 27295
Phone: (336) 853-7795
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TMS

Dan Shamblen, Principal
Morgan Lindley, Assistant Principal

September 26, 2024

Dear Parent/Guardian:

I hope the school year has started successfully for all of you. As a parent/guardian of a student in Tyro Middle School, I am writing this letter to let you know that Tyro Middle School has been designated as a Targeted Support & Improvement Additional Targeted Support (TSI-AT) school by the North Carolina State Board of Education. ESSA Section 1111(d)(2) stated that 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 underperforming. This opportunity intends to improve educational outcomes for all students, close achievement gaps, increase equity, and improve the quality of instruction.

As a TSI-AT school, Tyro 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 our school's progress. 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 Tyro Middle School this year:

"**T**hrive, **M**otive, and **S**upport"

- **Goal 1 *"Thrive"***: The school-wide grade level proficiency will increase from 46.3% to at least 50%. Subject area grade level proficiency will increase in reading (41.9% to 47%), math (41.9% to 50%), and science (72.0% to 78%) during the 2024 - 2025 school year with a focus on high-quality, rigorous, standards-based instruction.
- **Goal 2 *"Motivate"*:** During the 2024-2025 school year, students will use the Character Strong platform to develop social, emotional, and character competencies that promote learning and reduce the number of discipline referrals from 336 incidents last school year to 319 (a 5% reduction).
- **Goal 3 *"Support"*:** As a TSI-AT(SWD-2) designated school, the Students with Disabilities (SWD) subgroup will reach a performance grade of a D (40) or higher by June 2025 (and in subsequent years).

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 Tyro Middle School will be implementing:

- Leadership teams will monitor classroom instructional practices through frequent walkthroughs with data collection and formal observations.
- Leadership teams will ensure that the instructional minutes of Dragon Time (Remediation, Intervention, and Enrichment) are used effectively on a daily basis.
- Professional Learning Communities will meet regularly to plan standards-aligned instruction that is based on assessment results, best instructional practices, and is paced appropriately.
- The Guidance Department in conjunction with leadership teams will plan activities and lessons that offer strategies for middle school students to be successful in the 21st century.
- The school will communicate regularly with the home via phone messages, email, the school website, and social media.

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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 the 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 Ms. Alexander or Mr. Baker (School Counselors) at (336) 853-7795 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 (www.tms.davidson.k12.nc.us) and follow us on Facebook (facebook.com/TyroMiddleDragons).
- Volunteer.
- Join the Tyro Middle School PTO

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:

- Tyro Middle School Website: tms.davidson.k12.nc.us
- 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:

- Met as a School Leadership team to improve our instructional practices and track the progress of our goals.
- Offered professional development on "Core Instruction and Intervention" and well as digital tools to support student learning.

If you have questions about the content of this letter, please contact dshamblen@davidson.k12.nc.us or by phone at 336-853-7795.

Sincerely,

Dan Shamblen
Tyro Middle School Principal