



# Tyro Middle School

**Make Every Move Excellent**

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Principal-Anna Ruth Crouse  
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Dear Parent/Guardian:

I am writing to notify you that Tyro Middle School has been dually designated as a **North Carolina Low-Performing School** and a federally identified **Additional Targeted Support and Improvement (ATSI) School** by the North Carolina State Board of Education.

As defined in G.S. 115C-105.37, "The State Board of Education shall identify low-performing schools on an annual basis. Low-performing schools are those that earn an overall school performance grade of D or F and a school growth score of 'met expected growth' or 'not met expected growth' as defined by G.S. 115C-83.15."

North Carolina School Performance Grades provide families with an additional measure of school performance. These grades are based **80% on student achievement (proficiency) and 20% on academic growth**.

For the 2025–2026 school year, Tyro Middle School's achievement results included:

- Grades 6–8 English Language Arts: **47.6% proficient**
- Grades 6–8 Mathematics: **50% proficient**
- Math I: **100% proficient**
- Grade 8 Science: **56% proficient**

Based on these results and student growth data, Tyro Middle School received a **School Performance Score of 53, resulting in a grade of D**, and a growth designation of **Did Not Meet Expected Growth** for the 2025–2026 school year.

In addition to the state designation, Tyro Middle School has been federally identified for **Additional Targeted Support and Improvement (ATSI)**. Under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), schools may receive this designation when the performance of one or more student subgroups meets the state's criteria for additional targeted support. These subgroups may include Students with Disabilities, Economically Disadvantaged students, Black students, White students, Hispanic students, Asian-Pacific Islander students, Multiracial students, and English Learners.

As a school with both state and federal designations, Tyro Middle School is required to develop and implement a comprehensive improvement plan focused on increasing student achievement and strengthening instructional practices. Our plan addresses key areas including standards-aligned instruction, Professional Learning Communities (PLCs), instructional leadership, recruitment and retention of effective teachers, tiered instruction, data-driven decision-making, and student support services.



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## Our School Improvement Priorities

Tyro Middle School's School Improvement Team has identified three primary goals for the 2026–2027 school year: **meet or exceed expected growth, increase student proficiency, and improve overall student performance.**

To accomplish these goals, we will focus on the following strategies:

- **Targeted Dragon Time:** Students will be placed in flexible groups based on current assessment data and individual learning needs. Teacher-created lessons will provide remediation, intervention, maintenance, and enrichment. Groups will change as students demonstrate growth and new learning needs emerge.
- **Small-Group Instruction:** Teachers will increase the use of purposeful small-group instruction during core classes to provide targeted reteaching, additional practice, immediate feedback, and enrichment while maintaining grade-level rigor.
- **Standards-Aligned Instruction:** PLC teams will work collaboratively to unpack standards, plan standards-aligned units, and ensure students receive consistent, rigorous instruction focused on the knowledge and skills required at each grade level.
- **Common Assessments and Data Review:** Teachers will use common formative assessments, student work, pre-assessments, and progress-monitoring data to identify learning gaps and determine students' next instructional steps. PLC teams will regularly review this evidence and adjust instruction and student groups accordingly.
- **Schoolwide Reading and Thinking Strategies:** Through **Dragon Compass**, students will use consistent reading, academic vocabulary, and thinking strategies across ELA, math, science, social studies, Encore, and Dragon Time. These strategies are designed to help students become more independent and confident when working with complex or unfamiliar material.

We have already begun this work. Our staff has participated in professional learning focused on Catlin Tucker's blended-learning strategies, including small-group instruction and station rotation, to increase student engagement, differentiation, and ownership of learning. Throughout the year, we will continue to monitor student progress and adjust our instructional practices based on student needs and results.

## How Families Can Help

Families are essential partners in student success. We encourage you to:

- Ensure that you and your child understand the academic expectations for this school year. Student-friendly learning objectives are available from your child's teachers.



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- Make sure your child attends school each day, arrives prepared, and completes assigned work.
- Monitor your child's academic progress and communicate regularly with teachers.
- Attend conferences and other school meetings when needed.
- Stay informed through Tyro Middle School's website, ClassDojo, and social media.
- Join and support the Tyro Middle School PTO.
- Contact Mrs. Crouse at **[annacrouse@davidson.k12.nc.us](mailto:annacrouse@davidson.k12.nc.us)** if you have questions or concerns about your child or would like to schedule a meeting with a staff member.

Additional information about North Carolina academic standards, assessments, graduation requirements, and School Report Cards is available through the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction.

We are committed to improving student outcomes and providing every Tyro Middle School student with high-quality learning opportunities. Just as one score or grade does not tell the entire story of a student, one school performance grade does not tell the entire story of our school, our students, or the opportunities we provide.

These designations provide us with an opportunity to closely examine our practices, strengthen instruction, address achievement gaps, and ensure that every student receives the support needed to grow and succeed. Our mission remains clear: Tyro Middle School empowers every student to take ownership of their learning and grow into a confident, lifelong learner through strong relationships, rigorous instruction, high expectations, and a culture of respect.

We appreciate your partnership and continued support as we work together to improve student achievement and make the 2026–2027 school year successful for every Tyro Dragon.

If you have questions regarding the content of this letter, please contact me at **336-853-7795** or **[annacrouse@davidson.k12.nc.us](mailto:annacrouse@davidson.k12.nc.us)**.

Sincerely,

**Mrs. Anna Ruth Crouse**

Principal

Tyro Middle School