October 25, 2023

Eagle Families:

I hope the school year has started successfully for all of you. As a parent/guardian of a student at Carver Middle School, you should know that Carver 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 has to identify schools targeted for support and improvement. TSI-AT schools in North Carolina are those that have a subgroup that is under-performing. 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.” The intent of this opportunity is to improve educational outcomes for all students, close achievement gaps, increase equity, and improve the quality of instruction.

Legislation (G.S. §115C-83.15) passed during the 2013 long session of the North Carolina General Assembly provides parents with an additional measure of school performance in the form of School Performance Grades. Beginning with the 2013–14 school year, the annual North Carolina School Report Cards display a letter grade of A, B, C, D, or F for each school in the state.

The School Performance Grades are based 80 percent on our school’s achievement score (student proficiency) and 20 percent on students’ academic growth. At Carver Middle School our achievement score for the 2022-2023 school year is based on how well our students performed on the following tests: Grades 6–8 Mathematics, Grades 6–8 English Language Arts/Reading, Grade 8 Science, and NC Math 1,

Carver received a School Performance Grade of F and a growth designation of “Met Growth” for the 2022-2023 school year. Although we are committed to improving this score, 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 a school or the opportunities that our school provides. At Carver we provide students with electives that focus on STEAM, Personalized Learning through Exact Path, the arts, foreign language as well as various academic and athletic opportunities.

As a TSI-AT school, Carver 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 this year:

* By June 2024, Carver Middle School will achieve a 10% increase in grade-level proficiency, exceeding expected growth on both ELA, Math and Science End-of-Grade (EOG) assessments.
* By the end of the 2023-24 school year, Carver Middle School will achieve a 25% increase in parental engagement, as measured by social media interactions, parent night attendance, and participation in school/district parent surveys.
* By June 2024, Carver Middle School will reduce office discipline referrals (ODR) by 25%.

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 our team will be implementing:

* Ensure that teachers and students have access to devices that support instruction.
* Utilize technology tools (apps and programs) to differentiate instruction and engage students.
* Develop the PLC model to include data-based child studies.
* Create greater accessibility for parents by including information sessions at extracurricular events.

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).
* Stay in regular contact with your student’s teachers. If you have questions or concerns about your student that need to be addressed by support staff, please contact any administrator at (910) 462-4669.
* Utilize the Powerschool Parent Portal to track student progress.
* Make sure that your student is prepared and attends school each day.
* Monitor your student’s homework.
* Monitor your student’s social media accounts and devices closely.
* Keep track of our website and Facebook page.
* Volunteer to assist with parent activities. Contact Mr. Peed for more information.

This may sound 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:

· K-12 standards in academic subjects: [www.ncpublicschools.org/curriculum/](http://www.ncpublicschools.org/curriculum/)

· State student achievement test results: [www.ncpublicschools.org/accountability/](http://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 our students.

If you have questions about the content of this letter, please feel free to contact me here at (910) 462-4669.

Sincerely,

Charlotte McMillian, *Principal*