

Home of the Gators



South Johnson Elementary School

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LaTonya McLean, Principal
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Dear Gator Parents and Guardians,

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 South Johnson Elementary, our achievement score for the 2022-2023 school year is based on how well our students performed on Grades 3-5 *Mathematics*, Grades 3-5 *English Language Arts/Reading* and Grades 5 *Science*.

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that South Johnson Elementary School has been designated as a low performing 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."

South Johnson Elementary received a School Performance Grade of D and a growth designation of Met 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.

As a low performing school, we are required to develop an improvement plan that specifically addresses how the school will improve both the school performance grade and school growth score. The plan will also include how the superintendent and other central office administrators in the district will work with us and monitor the progress of our school. We are already engaged in the work of refining our plan and will present the plan to our school board at their next meeting, October 23, 2023 at 4:00 p.m. at A.B. Gibson Center where the plan will be presented for approval. The final plan will be available for review (www.scotland.k12.nc.us).

A Few of Our GATORiffic Strengths:

Our *students met expected* growth during the 2018-2019 and 2020-2021 school years. Our *student: EXCEEDED expected* growth and our school was recognized for exemplary growth (*top 1086 in the state*) in 21-22. Proficiency *rates* continued to *increase* in 2023 and we look forward to exceeding growth expectations once again!

26 students (2nd-5th grade) qualified *for* AIG services based on 2021-2022 *EOY data* (due in part to our K-2 nurturing acceleration *and* transition classes).

We maintain a strong *focus* on the social-emotional, mental health and *self-care* needs of our students, staff and families. School-wide practices are embedded to ensure connections are made with every child for family), every day (*RHITHM* check-ins, Morning Meetings, whole group and small group *SEL* sections, CFST meetings, Lunch Burch Groups, NBA Program, Grade Level *DEAR* groups, *etc*).

Every teacher is held accountable for employing exemplary instructional *practices* on a daily *basis*. Early intervention is a high priority. A multi-tiered system of support is provided with *fidelity*.

Our *state-of-the-art* media center is equipped with a green screen, maker-spaces, lego tables, coding kits, drones and robot. We also have 2 book machines to which all students have access throughout the year.

All learning *spaces* are *outfitted* with smart vs, swivels and flexible seating.

Students have a variety of leadership opportunities: Student Council Beta Club, The Gems, The GATOR Academy, Gator *Helpers and PBIS and Gators of the Month*.

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One of our top priorities for 2023-2024 is to improve the School Performance Grade in each school. There are a number of key programs we have in place to help improve student performance. These include:

By June 2024, we will reduce ODRs by 25% (from 385 to 289 or less) through the establishment of an inclusive culture focusing on the social-emotional needs of our students by implementing the

MTSS framework with fidelity in 100% of our classrooms.

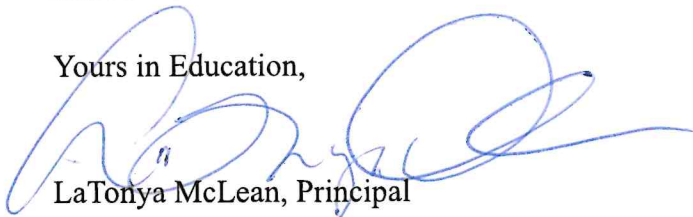
By the end of the 2023-2024 school year, our overall GLP will increase by 8.7 percentage points from 41.3 to 50% through the effective implementation of HMH and Benchmark Advance Curriculum materials, alignment to state standards and the consistent use of research based instructional practices.

By the end of the 2023-2024 school year, our overall CCR** will increase by 10 percentage points (from 23.1 to 33.1) through **the** use of PBLs, rigorous tasks and other acceleration strategies. A strong focus will be maintained on our AIG cohort.

We hope you will closely follow your student's academic progress and work with his or her teacher() to help ensure they stay on track academically. Working together as a team, we can improve not only how well our students are performing individually, but how our schools are performing as a whole. There is nothing more important to administrators and teachers at South Johnson Elementary than ensuring students are ready for the next step in their academic careers. We look forward to working with you to make sure your student is on track for success.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding our School Performance Grade and how we plan to improve the schools within our district, please don't hesitate to contact me at the school.

Yours in Education,



LaTonya McLean, Principal

"ONE VISION, ONE VOICE, ONE *VICTORY*"