



December 21, 2018

Dear Parent/Guardian:

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

- Instructional Excellence and Alignment
- Leadership Capacity
- Professional Capacity
- Families and Communities

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 Hope Middle School will be implementing:

- Teachers will employ effective classroom management and reinforce classroom rules and procedures by positively teaching them.
- Instructional teams will develop standards-aligned units of instruction for each subject and grade level.

- All teachers will use appropriate technological tools to enhance instruction.
- Instructional teams will use student learning data to identify students in need of instructional support or enhancement.
- All teachers will differentiate assignments to provide the right balance of challenge and attainability for each student.
- The school will implement a tiered instructional system that allows teachers to deliver evidence-based instruction aligned with the individual needs of students across all tiers.
- All teachers will be attentive to students' emotional states, guide students in managing their emotions, and arrange for support and interventions when necessary.
- The school will develop and implement consistent, intentional, and on-going plans to support student transitions for grade-to-grade and level-to-level.
- A leadership team will consist of the principal, teachers who lead the instructional teams and other professional staff will meet regularly to review implementation of effective practices.
- The school will establish a team structure among teachers with specific duties and time for instructional planning.
- The principal will monitor curriculum and classroom instruction regularly and provide timely, clear, constructive feedback to teachers.
- The leadership team will implement, monitor, and analyze results from an early warning system at the school level using several indicators to identify students at risk for dropping out.
- The school will regularly look at school performance data and aggregated classroom observation data to make decisions about school improvement and professional development.
- The school will establish a system of procedures and protocols for recruiting, evaluating, rewarding and replacing staff.
- All teachers will regularly make "interactive" assignments that encourage parent-child interaction relative to school learning.
- The school will regularly communicate with parents/guardians about its expectations of them and the importance of the curriculum and what parents can do at home to support their child's learning.

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 Hope Middle at (252) 355-7071 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.pitt.k12.nc.us/hope)
- Volunteer.
- Join the Hope PTA!

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:

- School website: www.pitt.k12.nc.us/hope for community and mental health resources
- 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 hired qualified staff, earned PBIS Green Ribbon recognition, established weekly school-to-home communication procedures, scheduled academic celebrations, held weekly grade level meetings and weekly Professional Learning Communities and are actively monitoring and providing interventions for struggling students and extensions for those that are advanced. We look forward to our continued participation in Art, Academic and Athletic competitions.

If you have questions about the content of this letter, please contact **Jennifer Poplin** at poplinj@pitt.k12.nc.us or call 252-355-7071.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Poplin