



# **G.R. Whitfield School**

4839 School Road  
Grimesland, NC 27837  
(252) 752-6614 Fax (252) 752-7484  
*"Promoting a Culture of Excellence"*



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Ashley Wheeler  
Principal

Joshua McClure  
Assistant Principal  
Thomas Dudley (AP Intern)

October 4, 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian:

I hope the school year has started successfully for all of you. As a parent/guardian of a student in G.R. Whitfield School, I am writing this letter to let you know that G.R. Whitfield School, 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, G.R. Whitfield 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 G.R. Whitfield this year:

- G.R. Whitfield will implement the PLC process with fidelity to move from Implementing to Developing as indicated by "The Professional Learning Communities at Work Continuum: Building a Collaborative Culture Through High-Performing Teams" Rubric. (Learning by Doing: A Handbook for Professional Learning Communities at Work, 3rd Edition p. 80-81)
- G.R. Whitfield will increase grade level proficiency on End of Grade Assessments by 10 percentage points by providing differentiation, supplemental and intensive instruction

where needed.

- G.R. Whitfield will progress from Emerging/Developing to Operationalizing with the implementation of a Three-Tiered Instruction/Intervention Model as indicated by Items 29-35 on the Facilitated Assessment of MTSS-School Level (FAM-S).
- G.R. Whitfield will create a culture of equity and cultural awareness through the creation of an equity team consisting of at least 20% of our staff members.
- G.R. Whitfield will make a commitment to improving our core instruction through the Learning Focused Model by providing targeted professional development, discussing instructional practices and data in PLCs, and intentional use of EVAAS to close gaps for our students.

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 G.R. Whitfield School will be implementing:

- Targeted intervention during schoolwide intervention block utilizing research based interventions.
- Tiered process of ensuring all children have access to core curriculum.
- Utilization of i-Ready for individualized instruction to meet students where they are currently performing academically as well as targeted small group instruction.
- Remediation teachers target small group instruction to close instructional gaps in student 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 Mrs. Ashley Wheeler at 252-752-6614 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 (<https://www.pitt.k12.nc.us/grw>) and Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/grwhitfieldelem>)
- Volunteer.
- Join the GRW Parent Teacher Organization

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:

- Graduation requirements: [www.ncpublicschools.org/gradrequirements/](http://www.ncpublicschools.org/gradrequirements/)
- 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 your student.

Already, we have:

- Recognized testing data from the 20-21 school year.
- Celebrated staff and student of the month for September.
- Celebrated positive teacher referrals.
- Received a \$75,000 grant for a Media Center full renovation.
- Received a \$10,000 grant for instruments for our general music program.

If you have questions about the content of this letter, please contact Ashley Wheeler at [wheelea@pitt.k12.nc.us](mailto:wheelea@pitt.k12.nc.us) or 252-916-9131.

Sincerely,

  
Ashley Wheeler