

Grifton School

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KEVIN SMITH
Principal



CASEY MATTHIS
Assistant Principal

November 26, 2019

Dear Parent/Guardian:

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

- Exceed Growth and/or Increase Overall School Performance Grade to 55 in order to exit Recurring Low Performing Schools Status
- Grifton School will increase composite Grade Level Proficiency from 46.8% to 52%.
- Grifton School will Meet or Exceed EVAAS Growth Projections
- Decrease the percentage of student population with 10+ unexcused absences from 4.1% to 3.1%
- Implement PBIS System that includes consistent teaching of expectations and reinforcement of positive behaviors in 100% of classrooms. Reduce office referrals by 10% (766 to 689).

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 Grifton School will be implementing:

- Utilize a reading specialist to provide professional development and assist with implementation of

differentiated reading practices in Kindergarten through 5th Grade.

- Implement I-Ready as a differentiated support program in reading and mathematics in Kindergarten through 8th grades.
- Utilize Multi-Classroom Teachers in 6th through 8th Grade English/Language Arts and 7th through 8th Grade Mathematics to provide rigorous and differentiated instruction for students.
- Implement an after school program to help students with reading strategies in Kindergarten through 2nd Grades.

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 your child's teacher 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 <https://www.pitt.k12.nc.us/grifton> and <https://www.facebook.com/GriftonSchool/>
- Volunteer.
- Join the Grifton School Parent Teacher Association.

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:

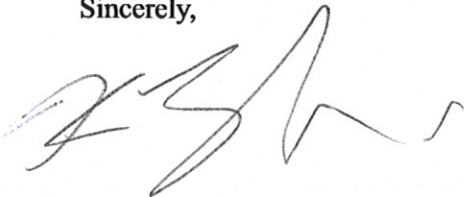
- Parents for Public Schools of Pitt County: <https://ppspittcounty.org/>
- Graduation requirements: www.ncpublicschools.org/gradrequirements/
- K-12 standards in academic subjects: www.ncpublicschools.org/curriculum/
- State student achievement test results: www.ncpublicschools.org/accountability/
- 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:

- Increased student proficiency on End of Grade tests significantly over the last two years.
- Consistently maintaining a 95% attendance rate.

If you have questions about the content of this letter, please contact Kevin Smith at (252) 524-5141 or smithke@pitt.k12.nc.us.

Sincerely,



Kevin Smith