

FROM
THE OFFICE
OF THE
PRINCIPAL

Deena A. Hayes | Chairperson, Board of Education
Sharon L. Contreras, Ph.D. | Superintendent



January 4, 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian:

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

- *Instructional Teams will develop standards aligned units of instruction for each sub group and grade level.*
- *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.*

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 Mendenhall Middle School will be implementing:

- *Teachers will create common assessments and track student data.*
- *Teachers will incorporate reteaching daily.*
- *Teachers will update the attendance spreadsheet to track chronic absentee students*



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 one of our teachers or counselors 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 for Mendenhall Middle School Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, or our website https://www.gcsnc.com/mendenhall_middle.
- Volunteer.
- Join the 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:

- 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.

If you have questions about the content of this letter, please contact Bobbie Barton at bartonb@gcsnc.com or 336.545.2000.

Sincerely,

George Green

Principal

