

**FROM
THE OFFICE
OF THE
PRINCIPAL**

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



September 14, 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian:

I hope the school year has started successfully for all of you. As a parent/guardian of a student in Bluford-Peeler STEAM Academy, I am writing this letter to let you know that Bluford-Peeler STEAM Academy, has been designated as a Targeted Support & Improvement – Consistently Underperforming (TSI-CU) 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-CU schools in North Carolina are those schools that have a subgroup that is consistently under-performing over an extended period of time. 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-CU school, Bluford-Peeler STEAM Academy 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**

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Guilford County Schools administers all educational programs, employment activities and admissions without discrimination because of race, religion, national or ethnic origin, color, age, military service, disability, marital status, parental status, or gender, except where exemption is appropriate and allowed by law.

We have set the following goals for Bluford-Peeler STEAM Academy this year:
By June 2020, Bluford-Peeler STEAM Academy will increase the school performance composites from 32.7% to 39% (Bluford) and from 37.5% to 41.5% (Peeler).

By June 2020, the school Reading composites at Bluford and Peeler will increase from 31.9% to 39% and from 37.5% to 41.5%, respectively.

Grade level Reading Proficiency Goals are as follows:

- *3rd Grade Reading from 30% to 40% (Bluford) and from 34.2% to 37% (Peeler)*
- *4th Grade Reading from 32.7% to 35% (Bluford) and from 37% to 40% (Peeler)*
- *5th Grade Reading from 33.3% to 36% (Bluford) and from 40.4% to 43% (Peeler)*

By June 2020, the school Math composites at Bluford and Peeler will increase from 32.7% to 35% and from 34.8% to 38%, respectively.

Grade level Reading Proficiency Goals are as follows:

- *3rd Grade Reading from 24% to 27% (Bluford) and from 39.5% to 43% (Peeler)*
- *4th Grade Reading from 24.5% to 27% (Bluford) and from 33.3% to 36% (Peeler)*
- *5th Grade Reading from 35.6% to 37% (Bluford) and from 31.9% to 35% (Peeler)*

By June 2020, the school 5th Grade Science proficiency at Bluford and Peeler will increase from 51.1% to 55% and from 59.6% to 63%, respectively.

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 Bluford-Peeler STEAM Academy will be implementing:

- *Continued implementation of ARC (American Reading Company)*
- *Continued implementation of CKLA (Core Knowledge Language Arts)*
- *Continued implementation of Eureka Math*

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 Bluford-Peeler STEAM Academy at 336-370-8120 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.gcsnc.com/bluford_stem_academy and
https://www.gcsnc.com/peeler_open_elementary.
- **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. Already, we have:

- Won the elementary school spirit award at the GCS Celebration of Excellence last year
- Had multiple online family engagement opportunities
- Participated in a variety of professional development sessions to ensure student success
- Began our planning for our Annual Title I Curriculum Night to inform families about our Title I Program and the curriculum that our students engage in daily

If you have questions about the content of this letter, please contact Mrs. Readus at readusj@gcsnc.com or 336-370-8120.

Sincerely,



*Johnita Readus, Principal
Bluford-Peeler STEAM Academy*