



September 29, 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian:

I hope the school year has started successfully for each of you. As a parent/guardian of a student at Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle School, I am writing this letter to let you know that the North Carolina State Board of Education has designated Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle School, as a Targeted Support & Improvement Additional Targeted Support (TSI-AT) school. 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, Martin Luther King, Jr. 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 Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle School this year:

- Each student will work toward proficiency in math throughout the school year so that the EOG math composite increases from 44.9% proficiency to 55% proficiency and students continue to meet high growth as measured by the NC Math EOG and by EVAAS growth data.
- Each student will work toward proficiency in reading throughout the school year so that the EOG reading composite increases from 29.5% proficiency to 40% proficiency and students continue to meet high growth as measured by the NC English-Language Arts EOG and by EVAAS growth data.
- Each 8th grade student will work toward proficiency in science throughout the school year so that the EOG science composite increases from 60.1% proficiency to 70.1% proficiency and students continue to meet high growth as measured by the NC Science EOG and by EVAAS growth data.
- Each student will engage in positive social-emotional learning opportunities in order to decrease the percent of in and out of school suspension by at least 10% from the 2020-2021 school year. Each student will improve student attendance so that the number of students with unexcused absences decreases from 33.5%

Our students need to experience higher achievement levels, but this will require hard work on the part of staff, students and families. Here are some strategies Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle School will be implementing:

- The administrative team will conduct walkthroughs teachers to observe teacher and student
- interactions. The administrative team will use a rubric to see effective management during instruction and transition.

- Educators will use data analysis protocols that include student exemplars and rubrics to identify common misconceptions and errors that will improve student learning.
- Our school will implement the Martin Luther King, Jr. Success Plan early intervention model to provide specific interventions to support our early warning indicator students who have a high probability of dropping out of school in academics, behavior, and attendance.

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 our school at (980) 343-0698 if you have questions or concerns about your student or if you wish 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, on time.
- Monitor your student's homework.
- Monitor the progress your student is making and attend meetings with your student's teacher(s).
- Keep track of occurrences listed on our school website:
<https://schools.cms.k12.nc.us/martinlutherkingjrMS/Pages/Default.aspx>
- Volunteer at our school
- Join the Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle School Parent Teacher Organization

This 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.

Please view the dates for upcoming events and activities:

- September 13 - October 6: School-wide MAP Testing in Reading and Math
- September 30 - October 1: Student academic progress available through PowerSchool's Parent Portal (progress reports)
- October 29: End of Quarter
- Parent Conferences can be scheduled through the grade-level counselors
 - 6th Mrs. Gilchrist pamelaw.gilchrist@cms.k12.nc.us
 - 7th Ms. Randolph ashleir.randolph@cms.k12.nc.us
 - 8th Ms. Jones ashlene1.jones@cms.k12.nc.us

If you have questions about the content of this letter, please contact Nemal Patel at nemalk.patel@cms.k12.nc.us or (980) 343-0698.

Sincerely,



Nemal K. Patel
Principal
Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle School