

FROM
THE OFFICE
OF THE
PRINCIPAL

Date: October 2021



Dear Vandalia families,

I hope the school year has started successfully for all of you. As a parent/guardian of a student in Vandalia Elementary, I am writing this letter to let you know that we have been designated as a Comprehensive Support & Improvement Low-Performing (CSI-LP) school by the North Carolina State Board of Education. As stated in ESSA Section 1111(c)(4)(D)(i), North Carolina had to identify schools for comprehensive support and improvement. CSI-LP schools in North Carolina are those found in the lowest-performing 5 percent of all schools receiving Title I funding. 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 CSI-LP school, Vandalia Elementary 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
- Standard-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 Vandalia Elementary this year:

- By 2022, Vandalia will increase overall reading proficiency in grades 3-5 from 31% to 36%;
- By 2022, Vandalia will increase overall math proficiency from 18% to 23%;
- By 2022, Vandalia will increase fifth grade science proficiency from 16% to 21%.

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 Vandalia Elementary will be implementing:

- Positive Behavior & Intervention Supports (PBIS) structures and celebrations;
- Newly created monthly family engagement activities;
- Professional development for teachers.

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 Stephanie Rakes 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
- Join the our Vandalia 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>

If you have questions about the content of this letter, please contact Stephanie Rakes at rakes@gcsnc.com or (336) 370-8275.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Rakes

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