



September 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian:

I hope the school year has started successfully for all of you. As a parent/guardian of a student in Allen Jay Prep, I am writing this letter to let you know that Allen Jay Prep has been designated as a Targeted Support & Improvement Additional Targeted Support (TSI-AT) school and 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-AT and TSI-CU 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 and TSI-CU school, Allen Jay Prep 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 Allen Jay Prep this year:

- *During the 2021-2022 school year, Allen Jay Prep will work to close the gap of 20.2 points that exists between white and African American scholars in math by 10% (from 20.2 to 18.2).*
- *By June 2022, Allen Jay Middle will increase the school performance composite from 63.3% to a minimum of 65.3%.*
- *By June 2022, Allen Jay Prep will work to reduce the number of suspensions by 30%.*
- *Allen Jay Prep will continue to increase overall parent/student satisfaction as measured on the AJ Prep Perception Survey. Although previous surveys were favorable in each area investigated, we will continue to assess overall satisfaction as measured by survey of all parents and scholars. Areas of focus on the survey will be student safety and student discipline.*

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 Allen Jay Prep will be implementing:

- *Teachers in each core subject area will meet as a vertical team to plan for consistency across grade levels and to strengthen the instruction of that subject. Ideas and resources will be shared.*

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- *All staff members will consistently use the LiveSchool Scholar Dollar paycheck system to reinforce desired behaviors and redirect undesired behaviors.*
 - *When in-person learning resumes, after-school tutoring will occur weekly. Scholars will work on standards in reading and math in which gaps are evident.*
 - *Freckle will be purchased and utilized in every math and ELA classroom at Allen Jay Prep. This online program is designed to teach scholars to think deeply about standards while addressing individual needs of scholars.*

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 Allen Jay Prep at 336-819-2164 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/allen_jay_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.

Already, we have:

- All scholars have a Freckle account that can be accessed at home for reinforcement of reading and math skills.
- LiveSchool can be monitored by parents in real-time.

If you have questions about the content of this letter, please contact Dr. Kevin Wheat at 336-819-2164 or wheatk2@gcsnc.com.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kevin Wheat

