

**November 14, 2022**

Dear Parent/Guardian:

As a parent/guardian of a student in *Ferndale Middle School*, I am writing this letter to let you know that *Ferndale Middle School*, has 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, *Ferndale 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 *Ferndale Middle School* this year:

- By June 30, 2024, Ferndale Middle School will increase its overall Performance Composite by at least 3 percentage points.
- By June 30, 2024, Ferndale Middle School will increase overall 8th grade math (not Math 1) proficiency by at least 5 percentage points.
- By June 30, 2024, Ferndale Middle School will reduce the number of lost instructional days resulting from discipline referrals by 10%.
- By June 30, 2024, Ferndale Middle School will decrease chronic student absences (10% or more of days enrolled) by 5 percentage points.
- By June 30, 2024, Ferndale Middle School instructional teams will identify students needing support and enhancement, track, maintain, collaborate, analyze data, and create learning plans to improve instruction and student achievement.
- By June 2024, Ferndale Middle School will increase the retention of highly qualified teachers by ensuring that 80% or more of teachers will be retained through various opportunities such as professional development, leadership, and facilitating a positive staff culture and climate.

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 counseling department at 336-819-2855* 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 *[insert links]*.
- Volunteer.
- Join the **Insert name of Parent Teacher Association.**

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/](http://www.ncpublicschools.org/gradrequirements/)
- K-12 standards in academic subjects: [www.ncpublicschools.org/curriculum/](http://www.ncpublicschools.org/curriculum/)
- State student achievement test results: [www.ncpublicschools.org/accountability/](http://www.ncpublicschools.org/accountability/)
- N.C. School Report Cards: <https://www.dpi.nc.gov/data-reports/school-report-cards>

We're excited about this school year and are working to make it a success for your student. Already, we have:

- Celebrated an increase in student growth as evidenced by fall NWEA MAP test results.
- Celebrated overall increases in student performance as evidenced by fall interim assessment test results.
- Provided over 500 rewards and recognitions to students based on Class Craft points and student behavior.
- Shared weekly attendance tips and updates with families through our school newsletter.
- Provided opportunities for students to visit multiple colleges, professional games, and other field trips to support learning and explore post-secondary options.
- Fed athletes and students participating in after school programs through community partnerships.
- Provided additional support and training for all staff to increase student performance and success.

If you have questions about the content of this letter, please contact Leslie Kinard at [kinardl@gcsnc.com](mailto:kinardl@gcsnc.com) or 336-819-2855.

Sincerely,



Leslie M. Kinard