



September 3rd, 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian of Kiser Middle School:


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

1. *School Overall Performance Composite Goal: By June 2022, Kiser Middle will increase the school performance composite from 47.7% in 2021 to 60% as measured by the End of Grade reading, mathematics, and science assessments.*
2. *Achievement Gap Goal: By June 2022, Kiser Middle School will decrease the Achievement Gap with Students with Disabilities in the reading composite from 34.3 to 30.9 and decrease the math achievement gap composite from 30.8 to 27.8. Kiser will decrease the achievement gap with the Black demographic group in the reading composite from 21.7 to 19.5 and decrease the math achievement gap composite from 18.5 to 16.7. Kiser will decrease the achievement gap with English Language learners in reading composite from 42.1 to 37.9, and the math achievement gap from 25.5 to 23.*
3. *Discipline Goal: By 2022, Kiser Middle School will decrease the total number of lost instructional days due to Out of School Suspension (OSS) by 30% from our trend through September 2021 we are averaging 5.94 lost days (Educator's Handbook source) per year which would amount to 1,039 days for the 2021-2022 school year decreased to 728 lost instructional days.*
4. *Climate and Culture Priority Goal: By 2022, Kiser Middle School will improve the overall climate and culture by increasing its school environment score from 71% as measured by the 2020 Teacher Working Conditions survey to 85%.*
5. *Attendance Goal: By June 2022, Kiser Middle School will reduce the percentage of students who are chronically absent (absent 20% or more days in membership) from school by 5% from the current 36.4% (356 students) to 31.4%.*



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 Kiser Middle School will be implementing:

- *Continued implementation of MTSS framework to provide staff training for identifying appropriate tier of intervention for each student.*
- *Utilization of PBIS expectations and matrix of school norms for high behavioral expectations for all students.*
- *Kiser will continue to use Open Up, MVP, and Number World resources during mathematics instruction.*
- *Kiser will continue to utilize American Reading Company resources and framework along with the IRLA reading assessment during English/Language Arts (ELA) instruction.*
- *Communicate consistently to students and families weekly with Connect Ed, Facebook, Canvas, and the school website.*
- *Use Instructional Leadership Team (ILT) to monitor and provide ongoing coaching to improve instructional outcomes for students.*

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 Kiser Middle School at 336-370-8240, 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/Kiser_Middle
- Volunteer.
- Join the Kiser Middle School PTA at <https://kiser.new.memberhub.store/store>

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:

- GCS Website: <https://www.gcsnc.com/Domain/4>
- 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.

If you have questions about the content of this letter, please contact Mr. Wohlgemuth at wohlgee@gcsnc.com or 336-370-8240.

Sincerely,

Teddy Wohlgemuth

