

November 15, 2022



Dear Parent/Guardian:

I hope the school year has started successfully for all of you. As a parent/guardian of a student in Knox Middle School, I am writing this letter to let you know that Knox Middle, 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, Knox 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
- 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 Knox Middle School this year:

- To raise overall Math, Reading and Science proficiency scores by 3% on EOG's
- To increase our Panorama domain in Work Ethic in both grit and classroom effort to 65%

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 Knox Middle School will be implementing:

- Standard aligned lesson plans monitored by administration
- Implement and monitor iReady weekly in math and reading
- In class intervention time for core subjects

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 Ruth Bailey @ 703-633-2922 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:
School Website: <https://www.rssed.org/site/Default.aspx?PageID=53>
Twitter: Follow individual teachers
- Volunteer.
- Join the 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:

- Communities in School: <https://www.communitiesinschools.org/>
- Kids Health: <https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/school-help-middle.html>
- 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://ncreports.ondemand.sas.com/src/?county=Rowan>

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

- Outstanding Athletic events/results
- Many students achieving A/B Honor Roll
- 8th Grade students applying for Early College

If you have questions about the content of this letter, please contact Jerri Hunt, Director of Federal Programs at jerri.hunt@rss.k12.nc.us or 704-680-6838.

Sincerely,

Jaime Pacilio, Interim Principal