

January 8, 2019

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

By June 2020, to ensure students are prepared with opportunities for meaningful employment and/or higher education, we are aiming to be a B school.

- In order to accomplish this goal, we are aiming to move our school-wide Literacy proficiency scores to a composite of 46.38% (an increase of 9% from the 2017-2018 school year) by the end of the 2018-2019 school year.
- In order to accomplish this goal, we are aiming to move our school-wide Math proficiency scores to a composite of 73.81% (an increase of 13.61% from the 2017-2018 school year) by the end of the 2018-2019 school year.
- In order to accomplish this goal, we are aiming to move our school-wide Science proficiency scores to a composite of 77% (an increase of 8% from the 2017-2018 school year) by the end of the 2018-2019 school year.

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 Piney Grove Elementary will be implementing:

- Each grade level has built in enrichment and intervention time throughout the day to allow for small group, targeted instruction
- We have designed 90 minute planning periods for each grade level to allow for more strategic lesson plan designs
- In Reading, Math, and Science we continue to build clear learning targets for our students so that learning is made visible in the classroom.

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 targets in student-friendly language are available from your student's teacher(s).

- Call 980-343-6470 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).
- 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:

- CMS Student Portal: <http://www.cms.k12.nc.us/Pages/studentportal.aspx>
- 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:

- In grades 3-5 we have implemented our Piney Grove House system in which every student in these grades went through "Decision Day" to determine their house. This allows us to build a strong school culture across our upper grades.
- Our STEM lab is fully equipped with Apple computers, Lego robotics table, video-conferencing center and a 3-D printer that is now accessible for K-5.
- We continue our work of building home libraries by providing every student with a brand new book during our Fall Book Giveaway.

There is much to be excited about this year and we look forward to partnering with you to continue the great work of our school community.

Sincerely,

William Loren Campbell
Principal