

January 24, 2019

Dear Parent/Guardian:

I hope the school year has started successfully for all of you. As a parent/guardian of a student in **Starmount Academy of Excellence** I am writing this letter to let you know that **Starmount Academy of Excellence**, 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, **Starmount Academy of Excellence** 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 **Starmount Academy of Excellence** this year:

- Increase its overall proficiency from 38.7% in 2017-18 to 43% and achieve high growth status as measured by the EOG data.
- Decrease by at least 15% percentage points the number of out of school suspensions.

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 **Starmount Academy of Excellence** will be implementing:

- **Implementation of Thinking Maps In All Grade Levels**
- **Growth Mindset Trainings for Teacher, Daily Classroom Meetings, and Quarterly Assemblies**

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 **Nancy E. Martinez, 980-343-3630** 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://m.facebook.com/StarmountAcademy>.
- Volunteer at **Starmount Academy of Excellence**.
- Join the **Starmount Academy of Excellence, Parent Teacher Organization**

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:

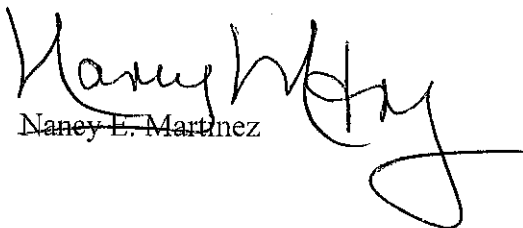
- **Starmount Academy of Excellence**,
<http://schools.cms.k12.nc.us/starmountacademyES/Pages/Default.aspx>
- Graduation requirements: www.ncpublicschools.org/gradrequirements/
- K-12 standards in academic subjects: www.ncpublicschools.org/curriculum/
- State student achievement test results: www.ncpublicschools.org/accountability/
- 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:

- **Implemented Thinking Maps to foster and support higher levels of thinking and learning in all "4 domains" (reading, writing, speaking and listening).**

If you have questions about the content of this letter, please contact **Nancy E. Martinez** at nanceve.martinez@cms.k12.nc.us or 980-343-3630.

Sincerely,


Nancy E. Martinez