



Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools

Every Child. Every Day. For a Better Tomorrow.
January 21, 2019

First Ward Creative Arts Academy

715 N Caldwell Street
Charlotte, North Carolina 28202

Dear Parent/Guardian:

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

- Collaboration with General Education and Exception Children Teacher (scheduled planning times)
- 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 First Ward Creative Arts Academy this year:

- For the 2018-19 school year, all students in our Exceptional Children's Program will demonstrate measurable growth in reading and mathematics. Each student will improve their performance by at least 10 points when comparing their Fall Map scores to their Spring MAP mathematics assessment.

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 First Ward Creative Arts Academy will be implementing:

- Students will participate in the phonics program, Orton Gillingham to improve their decoding skills.
Students will participate in a Great Leaps program to increase their fluency rate.
- Reading and Math Intervention Groups will be implemented in general education classrooms and with the EC Teaching staff.

Phone: 980-343-5485 ■ Fax: 980-343-5587 ■ www.cms.k12.nc.us ■ CMS-TV

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- Assistive technology such as “Read Write Google” resources will be implemented daily for students with disabilities.
- EC teachers will provide visual support for Students With Disabilities in the General Education 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 objectives in student-friendly language is available from your student’s teacher(s).
- Contact your child’s teacher if you have questions or concerns about your child
- 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:
<http://schools.cms.k12.nc.us/firstwardES/Pages/Default.aspx>].
- Volunteer at our school: Contact Jacqueline Hines to identify specific ways you can assist or to volunteer to support our school-wide efforts: (Jacqueline Hines) j.landis@cms.k12.nc.us
- Join the First Ward Creative Arts Academy Parent Teacher Association (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:

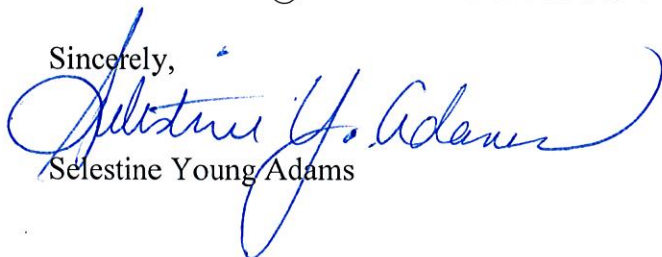
- Graduation requirements: www.ncpublicschools.org/gradrequirements/
- K-12 standards in academic subjects: www.ncpublicschools.org/curriculum/
- State student achievement test results: www.ncpublicschools.org/accountability/
- N.C. School Report Cards: <https://ncreportcards.ondemand.sas.com/src>

We’re excited about this school year and are working to make it a success for all of our students. Already, we have:

- Monthly EC Team Member meetings to discuss strategies that we are using and to review data on the progress our students are making
- CSST (Collaborative Students Support Team) meets every other week to identify additional ways to enhance learning for our students
- CICO was implemented in November. This program was initiated to provide emotional, behavioral and ultimately academic support for select students.
- We received an additional .5 EC Teacher to support our growing population of students
- EC Teachers plan with General Education Teachers and participate in our quarterly whole day planning sessions.

If you have questions about the content of this letter, please contact Selestine Y. Adams (Principal) at selestine.crowder@cms.k12.nc.us or 980-343-5485.

Sincerely,



Selestine Young Adams