

December 21, 2018

Dear Parent/Guardian:

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

- ELA proficiency will increase grades 3-5 from 19.4 to 24.4 (CCR), and exceed growth, based on EOG Reading Composite using data from EOGs, TRC, MAP, NC Check-Ins. (A 401)
- ELA proficiency will increase K-2 from 27.7 to 32.7 (CCR), and exceed growth, based on TRC levels using data from TRC, MAP, and cycle assessments. (A 401)
- Math proficiency will increase 3-5 from 34.8 to 39.8 (CCR), and exceed growth, based on EOG Math Composite using data from NC Check-Ins and MAP. (A 401)

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 Montclaire Elementary School will be implementing:

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- Improved small group instruction
  - 2-3 reading foundations lessons weekly (depending on grade level)
  - 2-3 grade level comprehension lessons weekly (depending on grade level)
- Daily phonics instruction Prek-2 with research-based Letterland
- Mini lessons aligned to state curriculum
- Character Education program (growth celebrations)
- Personalized Learning (emphasis on goal setting, whole child, personalized pathways to learning, growth mindset)
- Emphasis on learning strengths and growth areas via strategic use of data
- Building relationships with students to support their social-emotional needs
- Dedicated time for class meetings

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 Montclaire Elementary School 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:
  - Instagram--@montclairees
  - Facebook--@MontclaireCMS
  - School website-- <http://schools.cms.k12.nc.us/montclaireES/Pages/Default.aspx>
- Volunteer.
- Join the Parent Teacher Organization (PTO).

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:

- School Website: <http://schools.cms.k12.nc.us/montclaireES/Pages/Default.aspx>
- Graduation requirements: [www.ncpublicschools.org/gradrequirements/](http://www.ncpublicschools.org/gradrequirements/)
- K-12 standards in academic subjects: [www.ncpublicschools.org/curriculum/](http://www.ncpublicschools.org/curriculum/)
- State student achievement test results: [www.ncpublicschools.org/accountability/](http://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:

- Partnered with Read Charlotte to implement HELPs, a third grade fluency program
- Participating in the UPD/Read Charlotte pilot to improve small group instruction

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- Participating in the Harvard University MORE action research study to implement engaging, literacy-integrated science and SS lessons

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If you have questions about the content of this letter, please contact Leora Itzhaki at leora.itzhaki@cms.k12.nc.us or 980-343-3635.

Sincerely,

Leora Itzhaki, Principal