

9/25/2020

Dear Parent/Guardian:

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

- 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 Oakhurst STEAM Academy this year:

- Increase our school-wide literacy proficiency score to a composite of 32.3 to 38.3 College and Career Ready. This will be an increase of 6% from 2018-19.
- Increase our school-wide math proficiency score to a composite of 36.7 to 42.7 College and Career Ready. This will be an increase of 6% from 2018-19.
- Increase our school-wide science proficiency score to a composite of 56.7 to 62.7 College and Career Ready. This will be an increase of 6% from 2018-19.

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 Oakhurst STEAM Academy will be implementing:

- Staff will unpack standards and understand how they are taught using appropriate learning targets for children with special learning needs (SWD).
- Establish a school culture that supports the social and emotional learning of all students
- Staff continues to focus on effective teaching, data driven instruction, literacy integration in all content areas, and differentiated instruction for all children.

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 me, Angela Blue, Principal, 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  
<http://schools.cms.k12.nc.us/oakhurststeamacademyES/Pages/Default.aspx>
- Volunteer.
- Join the Oakhurst 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:

- Ms. Sealey and Ms. Mundrati, our School Guidance Counselors, 980-343-6482.
- 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:

- Successfully opened the school year with a decrease in discipline referral data.
- Created and implemented HOUSES where each staff member and student is a member.
- Facilitated full day planning sessions so our teachers are able to analyze data and plan effectively for each quarter.

If you have questions about the content of this letter, please contact me, Angela Blue, Principal, at [am.richardson@cms.k12.nc.us](mailto:am.richardson@cms.k12.nc.us) or 980-343-6482.

Sincerely,

Angela M. Blue  
Principal