

September 29, 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian:

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

- Increase % of students proficient in literacy from 44.6% GLP to 49.6% GLP and math from 49.10% GLP to 54.10% GLP. (A2.04, B3.03)
- Increase the Learning Environment Index as rated on the Insight Survey from 2.8 (Fall 2019) to 4.0 (Spring 2021)
- Close the achievement gaps of our African American Subgroup and Students With Disabilities Subgroup by increasing the percent proficiency of our African American Subgroup in reading from 41.2 GLP to 46.2 GLP and in math from 45.8 GLP to 50.8 GLP and increasing the percent proficiency of our SWD subgroup in reading from 0% GLP to 10% GLP and in math from 16.6% to 26.6% GLP. (A4.01, A2.04)

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 River Oaks Academy will be implementing:

- **Implementation of Caring School Community SEL Curriculum to support the development of our students**
- **Implementation of the new EL curriculum for literacy (K-5)**
- **Full implementation of Envisions 2020 Math Curriculum**
- **Utilize planning and PD opportunities to plan instruction that supports the different needs of scholars**
- **Analyze and disaggregate data and create small group plans**
- **Support the home/school connection and family engagement through newsletter, Bloomz, conferences, and curriculum nights to provide information on how to support at home.**
- **Utilize a coaching model to support each teacher in instructional practices.**

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 ***Stephanie Gust at 980.344.1020*** 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://schools.cms.k12.nc.us/riveroaksES/Pages/Default.aspx>
- Volunteer.
- Join the ***River Oaks Academy Parent Teacher Association***

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 your student.

If you have questions about the content of this letter, please contact **Stephanie Gust at stephanie.gust@cms.k12.nc.us or 980.344.1020.**

Sincerely,

Stephanie Gust