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Wake Forest Middle School

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Dear WFMS Parent/Guardian:

I am writing this letter to notify you that Wake Forest Middle School has been dually designated as both a North Carolina Low-Performing school and a federally identified Targeted Support & Improvement Additional Targeted Support (TSI-AT) school by the North Carolina State Board of Education.

As defined in G.S. 115C-105.37: "The State Board of Education shall identify low-performing schools on an annual basis. Low-performing schools are those that earn an overall school performance grade of D or F and a school growth score of "met expected growth" or "not met expected growth" as defined by G.S. 115C-83.15." Legislation (G.S. §115C-83.15) passed during the 2013 long North Carolina General Assembly session provides parents with an additional measure of school performance in the form of School Performance Grades. Beginning with the 2013–14 school year, the annual North Carolina School Report Cards display a letter grade of A, B, C, D, or F for each school in the state.

School Performance Grades are based 80 percent on our school's achievement score (student proficiency) and 20 percent on students' academic growth. At Wake Forest Middle School, our achievement score for the 2022-2023 school year is based on how well our students performed on EOGs for grades 6-8 in Math, grades 6-8 in Reading, grade 8 Science EOG, and Math I EOC. Wake Forest Middle School received a School Performance Grade of "D" and a growth designation of "Did Not Meet" for the 2022–2023 school year, despite meeting growth in many areas.

In addition, per the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Section 1111(d)(2), schools receive the federal identification of TSI-AT in North Carolina by having one or more of the following subgroups receive a subgroup performance grade score at or below the lowest 5% of schools across the state during the 2021- 2022 academic year; and being identified as a consistently underperforming subgroup in 2019-2020. Subgroup performance scores are provided for the following subgroups of students: (1) Students with Disabilities, (2) Economically Disadvantaged, (3) Black, (4) White, (5) Hispanic, (6) Asian-Pacific Islander, (7) Multi-racial, and (8) English Learners.

As a dually designated TSI-AT and NC low-performing school, Wake Forest Middle School is required to develop a comprehensive improvement plan that specifically addresses how the school will improve student achievement. The plan will also include strategies that our district or charter will employ to support Wake Forest Middle School's improvement efforts. The comprehensive improvement plan will address the following areas:

- 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 Insert name of the school this year:
- By 2024, all WFMS students will meet or exceed growth in Math as measured by EVAAS and increase overall school proficiency by 6 points based on NC EOG scores.

Here are some strategies that Insert the name of the school will be implementing to improve student outcomes:
- Drive Time is a scheduled time for targeted academic and social-emotional enrichment and support for all students. Students using data from classroom teachers, StarMath, FastBridge, and other assessments.
- Weekly Professional Learning Community (PLC) meetings to discuss relevant data from StarMath, FastBridge, and other assessments to identify additional supports needed for students.
- Increase Family Engagement opportunities.

Also, parent engagement is at the heart of our school improvement efforts. Here are some ways we can work together:
- Ensure that both you and your child know the academic expectations set for your child this school year. A list of learning objectives in student-friendly language is available from your student's teacher(s).
- Call your grade level counselor or administrator 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 child.
- Make sure that your child is prepared and attends school each day.
- Monitor your child's homework.
- Monitor the progress your child is making and attend meetings with your child's teacher(s).
- Keep track of our website and social media sites [insert links].
- Volunteer.
- Join Wake Forest Middle School PTSA.

Additionally, listed below are a few 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 are committed to improving student performance. It is important to remember that just as no single score or grade tells the whole story of a student, neither does it tell you everything about a school's performance or the opportunities that our school provides. The intent of receiving these designations is to improve educational outcomes for all students, close achievement gaps, increase equity, and improve the quality of instruction. We're excited about this school year and are working to make it a success for your child. Already, we are providing opportunities in visual and performing arts; athletics; clubs - including Helping Hands and Student Council; and a CTE program focused on preparing our students to explore opportunities for future career and college pathways following high school.

If you have questions about the content of this letter, please contact Dr. Chris Bradford at cbradford@wcpss.net or 919-554-8440.

Respectfully,

Christopher Bradford, Ed.D.

Principal