



Wendell Magnet Middle School

Academy of Design and Creative Arts

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Dear Parent/Guardian:

As a parent/guardian of a student in Wendell Magnet Middle School, I am writing this letter to let you know that Wendell Magnet Middle School, has been designated as a Targeted Support & Improvement Additional Targeted Support (TSI-AT) school and has been designated as a low-performing 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. 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.” The intent of this opportunity is to improve educational outcomes for all students, close achievement gaps, increase equity, and improve the quality of instruction.

Legislation (G.S. §115C-83.15) passed during the 2013 long session of the North Carolina General Assembly 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.

The School Performance Grades are based 80 percent on our school’s achievement score (student proficiency) and 20 percent on students’ academic growth. At Wendell Magnet Middle School our achievement score for the 2021-2022 school year is based on how well our students performed on Grades 3–8 Mathematics, Grades 3–8 English Language Arts/Reading, Grade 8 Science, NC Math 1 and additional indicators including English Learner Progress.

Wendell Magnet Middle School received a School Performance Grade of F and a growth designation of Not Met for the 2021–2022 school year. Although we are committed to improving this score, it is important to remember that just as no one single score or grade tells the whole story of a student, neither does it tell you everything about the performance of a school or the opportunities that our school provides. Our school community continues to be focused on:

- Engaging in professional learning around instructional strategies.
- understanding foundational skills that support student learning.
- supporting social emotional learning for students.

- increasing family engagement to support students.
- implementing a Design & Creative Arts Magnet theme.

As a TSI-AT school and as a school designated as NC low-performing, Wendell Middle 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 Wendell Middle School this year: By June of 2024, Wendell Middle School will meet or exceed growth in all subgroups by implementing a research-based instructional model.

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 Wendell Middle School will be implementing:

- Team data meetings to determine the growth of students.
- Processes for increasing parent communication and contact.
- Leader of the Pack incentives to encourage students to try their best and work hard.

Parent engagement is at the heart of our school improvement efforts. Here are some ways you can help:

- 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 your child's 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 student. Jennifer Palmer is the 6th grade administrator, Magnus Hemans is the 7th grade administrator, and Marsie Rabii is the 8th grade administrator.

- 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 @WendellMiddle on x and @wendellms.wcpss on Facebook.
- Volunteer.
- Join the Wendell Magnet Middle School Parent Teacher Association

Sounds like a lot but preparing our students so 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://www.dpi.nc.gov/data-reports/school-report-cards>

We're excited about this school year and are working to make it a success for your student. Already, we have:

- Decreased class sizes from last school year.
- Increased the intervention support within our school
- Experienced increases on benchmark reading and math assessments.

If you have questions about the content of this letter, please contact Catherine Trudell at ctrudell@wcpss.net

Sincerely,

Catherine Trudell, Principal

Wendell Magnet Middle School