

November 4, 2024

Dear Parent/Guardian:

I am writing this letter to notify you that North Garner Middle School has been 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 North Carolina General Assembly session provides parents with an additional measure of school performance in the form of School Performance Grades.

School Performance Grades are based 80 percent on our school’s achievement score (student proficiency) and 20 percent on students’ academic growth. At North Garner Middle School, our achievement score for the 2023-2024 school year is based on how well our students performed on Grades 6–8 Mathematics, Grades 6–8 English Language Arts/Reading, Grade 8 Science, NC Math 1, and additional indicators including English Learner Progress. North Garner Middle School received a School Performance Grade of a D and a growth designation of *Did Not Meet* for the 2023–2024 school year.

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 2022-2023 academic year; and being identified as a consistently underperforming subgroup for the previous year. 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, North Garner Middle School is required to develop a comprehensive improvement plan that specifically addresses how the school will improve student achievement. Our comprehensive improvement plan will address the following areas:

- Classroom Management
- Standards-aligned Instruction
- Professional Learning Communities (PLCs)
- Quality Professional Development
- Instructional Leadership
- Recruitment and Retention of Effective Teachers
- High Expectations for Staff and Students
- Implementation of a Tiered Instructional System



- Data-Driven Decision Making
- Student Support Services
- Resource Allocation
- Family and Community Engagement

We have set the following goals for North Garner Middle School this year:

- We will increase the combined student proficiency EOG score from 41.7% to 46.7% and meet or exceed expected growth.
- We will reduce the number of behavioral incidents and suspensions, enabling teachers to teach more effectively thus positively impacting student achievement in all subject areas.

Here are some strategies that our school will be implementing to improve student outcomes:

- Participating in targeted professional development opportunities for data-driven instruction.
- Engaging in Professional Learning Communities to plan targeted instruction for students.
- Providing learning targets, language objectives, standards that are student friendly, visible, communicated, and evident.
- Ensuring students are engaged in student-to-student discourse that communicates their understanding to others.
- Creating assignments that require students to apply knowledge and skills defined by the learning goals of the lesson.
- Implementing remediation practices during the core instructional block.
- Collaborating with educators to enhance the effectiveness of tiered instruction.
- Providing Pride Time each day of the week to implement interventions and enrichment opportunities for students.
- Implementing Trojan Power Words in English and in Spanish each week to improve student literacy outcomes.
- Monitoring progress using diagnostic data, course grades, and NC Check-Ins.
- Facilitating family engagement opportunities that foster academic success for students.
- Awarding students who model PRIDE with PBIS points to spend at the Trojan Trading Post.
- Inviting students to attend PRIDE Socials to celebrate their success with upholding schoolwide PRIDE expectations.
- Celebrating academic accomplishments through quarterly honor roll celebrations.
- Putting social emotional learning (SEL) initiatives in place to support students' emotional and behavioral well-being. For example, our Student Services Zen Den, Student Engagement Team (SET) and See Something, Say Something reporting.



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

- Call your child's grade level counselor if you have questions or concerns about your child 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, Canvas account, and PowerSchool grades.
- 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 <https://www.wcpss.net/northgarnerms> and on Facebook, Instagram, and X (Twitter) [@northgarnerms2](https://twitter.com/northgarnerms2).
- Volunteer and/or join the [North Garner Middle School PTSA](#).

Additionally, listed below are a few resources available to help:

- Academic Tools: [WCPSS Family Academies](#)
- K-12 Standards in Academic Subjects: www.ncpublicschools.org/curriculum/
- Free Tutoring: [Wake County Public Libraries](#)
- Multi-tiered Systems of Support (MTSS): Email Coordinator of NGMS- Jessica Anderson @ jdanderson@wcpss.net
- Math Practice: [Dreambox](#)
- N.C. End of Grade Testing: [Prep & Resources](#)
- Counseling & Student Services: [NGMS Student Services Department](#)
- 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 are committed to improving student performance. 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. 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 are excited about this school year and are working to make it a success for your child.

If you have questions about the content of this letter, please contact LaTeesha Register at lregister@wcpss.net or your child's specific grade level administrator:

6th Grade: Stephanie Kimmerly skimmerly@wcpss.net

7th Grade: Juanita Velazquez jvelazquez@wcpss.net

8th Grade: Brett Smith bsmith4@wcpss.net

AP of Instruction: Tawanna Styles tstyles@wcpss.net

Sincerely,

LaTeesha Register

LaTeesha Register, Principal