

12/21/2018

Dear Parent/Guardian:

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

- Unit pre-tests and post-tests results are reviewed by the Instructional Teams to make decisions about curriculum and instructional plans and to flag students in need of intervention or enrichment.
- All teachers differentiate assignments to provide the right balance of challenge and attainability for each student.
- The "ongoing conversation" between school personnel and parents/guardians is candid, supportive, and flows in both directions.
- All teachers meet with family members (parents or guardians) formally at least two times a year to engage in two-way communication regarding students' cognitive, socio-emotional, and physical development outside the classroom.

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 Pleasant Gardens will be implementing:

- Parents are invited to attend parent conferences each grading period at times that are convenient for parents, teachers and parents communicate using the school-wide Class Dojo App, parents receive weekly parent link phone calls for communication about school events and are surveyed throughout the year to be sure that our meetings are providing the information they need to help their child be successful in school
- We will be hosting Donuts for Dads and Muffins for Moms to work with parents on ways to assist their students with academics as well as socio-emotional and physical development outside of school. We will provide resources (Ready Rosie) to assist parents in building relationships with their children through academic language and physical play.

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 Melissa Elliott at 724-4422 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://pge.mcdowell.k12.nc.us/>
- Volunteer.
- Join the Pleasant Gardens 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:

- 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:

- Worked to communicate with parents through email, newsletters, school website, Class Dojo app as well as sending out weekly phone calls about school events.

If you have questions about the content of this letter, please contact **Melissa Elliott at 724-4422 or [melissa.elliott@mcdowell.k12.nc.us](mailto:melissa.elliott@mcdowell.k12.nc.us)**

Sincerely,

