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April 8, 2019

Dear Parents/Guardians:

I hope the school year has been successful for all of you thus far. As a parent/guardian of a student in Rocky Mount Preparatory School, I am writing this letter to let you know that Rocky Mount Prep 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, **Rocky Mount Prep** 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 **Rocky Mount Preparatory** this year:

- ***To improve scholar achievement so that the school performance composite will increase by a minimum of 14 percentage points by June 2019 as measured by end of course/end of grade assessment.***
- ***To implement a Comprehensive Behavior Management System in 100% of all K-12 classrooms.***
- ***To implement and monitor a sound instructional model so that students' academic growth will improve to ensure 100% of tested classes/courses meet expected growth by June 2019***

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as measured by NCDPI EVAAS Index.

- *To provide social-emotional support for all scholars as measured by K-12 guidance counselor lessons.*
- *To improve the overall academic and cultural improvement of the school by ensuring 100% of all teachers serve on various school committees to review student data and the implementation of effective practices.*
- *To support student transitions from grade-to-grade and level-to-level through vertical team planning and by aligning academic and behavior expectations for all K-12 students.*
- *To support, train, retain teachers so that teacher turnover will decrease by June 2019 as measured by the percent of current employees licensed and retained for employment during the 2018-19.*
- *To engage 100% of all teachers in professional development focused on rigorous lesson planning and pacing, professional learning communities, blended learning, culture and classroom management, and beginning teacher supports.*
- *To communicate weekly with parents and increase the percentage of parent engaged in PTA, school events, and parent universities by 2019 as measured by the calling system and the school's website.*

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 **Rocky Mount Prep** will be implementing:

- *Collaborative Planning with Teachers*
- *Classroom walk-throughs*
- *Teacher observations*
- *Mentoring/Coaching*
- *After-school Tutoring*
- *Data Analysis*
- *Small group instruction*
- *Informal Classroom Assessments*

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 **Rocky Mount Prep** 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).
- Read with your scholar each night.
- Keep track of our website and social media sites *on Facebook, Twitter, and Class Dojo.*
- Volunteer.
- Join P.T.O.

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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 **Todd Pipkin at 252-443-9932**.

Sincerely,

Todd Pipkin

Todd Pipkin, Head of School

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