



Expect **Excellence**. Express **Excitement**. Extend **Education**.

April 29, 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 as measured by the end of course/end of grade assessments.
- To implement and monitor a sound instructional model ensuring that students' academic growth will improve to show 100% of tested classes/courses meet or exceed expected growth as measured by NCDPI EVAAS Index.
- To support, train, retain teachers so that teacher turnover will decrease as measured by the percent of current employees licensed and retained for employment during the upcoming school year.

Rocky Mount Prep is a tuition-free, accredited public charter school.

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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 resulting in bite-sized feedback
- Teacher observations based upon NCDPI NC Educator Evaluation System
- 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, classwork and participation.
- 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 the 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/
- 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 **Mr. Pipkin or Dr. Garrett at 252-443-9932 ext. 1222.**

Sincerely,

Todd Pipkin

Todd Pipkin, Head of School
Rocky Mount Preparatory School