



North Wilkes Middle School
nwms.wilkescountyschools.org
2776 Yellow Banks Road
North Wilkesboro, NC 28659
336-903-6224

Principal: Heather Freeman Asst. Principal: Amy Samples

November 29, 2018

Dear Parent/Guardian:

I hope the school year has started successfully for all of you. As a parent/guardian of a student at North Wilkes Middle School, I am writing this letter to let you know that North Wilkes Middle School 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, North Wilkes 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 Wildly Important Goals for our school this year, and these are outlined in our school improvement plan:

- Provide opportunities for students to lead their own learning through our LEAD program.
- Increase student engagement by monitoring attendance, utilizing restorative discipline and mindfulness practices, and implementing highly effective instructional practices.
- Increase parental engagement by partnering with parents and sharing strategies through effective communication and opportunities for parents to visit the school.
- Monitor the progress of all students, implementing a tiered instructional support system based on data-driven collaboration and planning to ensure student growth.

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 North Wilkes Middle School will be implementing:

- Encourage your child to read outside of school. We recommend that students read at least 20 minutes nightly outside of school.
- Have your child spend time working on their individualized learning path in Exact Path. This program is purchased by the school, but it is also available to students to work on at home. Students may also work on IXL and Moby Max at home, which are also supplemental learning programs.

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 this school year. A list of learning objectives in student-friendly language is available from your student's teacher(s) on his/her CANVAS websites.
- Call your child's teacher(s) if you have questions or concerns or to set up an appointment to meet with a school staff member who is supporting your child.
- Make sure that your student is prepared and attends school each day, arriving to school on time.
- Monitor your student's homework, and set up a time weekly to have your child review his/her grades with you in PowerSchool. You can also sign up for alerts from PowerSchool when your child has updates to his/her grades.
- Monitor the progress your student is making by attending our Academic Parent Teacher Team and Student-led Conference nights.
- Keep track of our website and social media sites at the links below:
 - <https://nwms.wilkescountyschools.org/>
 - North Wilkes Middle School on Facebook
 - North Wilkes Middle School on Twitter
- Volunteer.
- Join the NWMS PTO, which meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. in the media center.
- Keep up-to-date on school happenings by reading our progress report and report card newsletters. Also, sign up for REMIND messages and other communication tools our teachers use.

These efforts may sound like a lot, but preparing our students so that they can succeed is not easy and requires 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. Already, we have:

- Started off the school year with more than 70% of our student body attending our Open House Block Party. Thank you for participating!
- Had a great turn-out for our student-led conferences on October 22, 2018. Please join us for student-led conferences and APTT nights on February 25, 2019 and April 30, 2019!
- Our students have all participated in NC Check-ins or benchmarks in all subjects to help us monitor their progress thus far. Teachers meet weekly in data teams to develop differentiated plans to help each student meet his/her potential in all areas.

If you have questions about the content of this letter, please contact Mrs. Freeman, NWMS principal, or Mrs. Samples, NWMS Assistant Principal, at 336-903-6224.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Heather Melton Freeman
Principal
North Wilkes Middle School