



N.L. DILLARD MIDDLE SCHOOL

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Ms. Franchesca Gantt, Principal ~ Janice Castle, Assistant Principal ~ Mr. Clarence Garrett, Assistant Principal

Date: **October 20, 2020**

Dear Dillard Middle School Parent/Guardian:

I hope the first quarter has been filled with successful remote learning experiences for you and your student(s). As we prepare for the continuation of successful teaching and learning, we would like to extend wonderful greetings to you and your family as we share some highlights with you. We are excited our students and families may access the internet through WiFi Rangers at Lively Stones Baptist (in Pelham), Kerr's Chapel Baptist (on Kerr's Chapel Road), Sweet Gum's Grove Baptist (on NC Hwy 119), and Shiloh Baptist Church (in Milton). To support families with remote learning, we have created a parent and student online resource center which can be accessed at <https://CaswellParentandStudentResources>. Moreover, our Title I Parent Nights will expose and educate parents and guardians to our curriculum and ways to aid their students with academic achievement and behavior expectations.

Dillard Middle School staff opened the new year with productive goals for the 2020-2021 school year. *Goal 1: DMS will meet or exceed expected growth as measured by North Carolina Department of Public Instruction. Goal 2: DMS school performance grade will increase from a D to a C.* Some of Dillard Middle School's improvement plan has embedded strategies to improve student achievement, which include:

- A school-wide PBIS (Positive Behavioral and Interventions Support) plan has been implemented to include a PBIS matrix with expectations for each area of the school.
- Hallway and transitional processes have been implemented to aid in overall structure and routine.
- Classroom management assistance, coaching, and professional development opportunities will be differentiated by assessed teacher needs.
- A schoolwide discipline matrix has been established and explained to inform and provide a system before referring a student to administration.
- Expectations for respectful and responsible relationships have been established and communicated by administration.
- MTSS will be established to provide interventions for behaviorally challenged students based on teacher referrals.
- Teachers will submit lesson plans weekly aligned to the curriculum and Standard Course of Study. Feedback will be provided from administrators.
- Teachers will refer to Revised Bloom's Taxonomy to implement higher order thinking skills and dispositions throughout instruction.
- All core classroom teachers are responsible for the use of curriculum guides aligned to the standards and lesson plans.
- There will be evidence of PLC collaboration and forms submitted to the instructional coach and shared with the administrative team.
- Math 1, 2, 3 and English 1, 2, 3 and 4 will use the Engage New York and Eureka Math

- curriculum to guide their instructional practices.
- ❑ Administrators, alongside, instructional coaches, will monitor, assess and provide feedback on lesson plans and curriculum alignment.
- ❑ Administrators and instructional coaches will conduct walkthroughs with immediate feedback to grow teacher capacity.
- ❑ Administrators will attend and participate in content area PLC meetings focused on sharing best practices and results.
- ❑ Teachers will make parent phone calls, especially positive ones, to inform parents immediately of concerns.
- ❑ The principal will send out weekly messages to all stakeholders informing of weekly events.
- ❑ The website will be kept current, including teacher sites.
- ❑ DMS will host 4 Title I Parent Nights to inform parents of Title I status and current curriculum being taught and how to assist their students.

As stated in ESSA Section 1111(d)(2), North Carolina had to identify schools for targeted support and improvement. Dillard Middle School has been designated as a Targeted Support & Improvement Additional Targeted Support (TSI-AT) school by the North Carolina State Board of Education. 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. With that said, *Parent engagement is at the heart of our school improvement efforts. Here are some ways we can work together:*

- *Make sure 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 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 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.*
- *Join a parent support/volunteer team*

This may sound like a lot; however, preparing our students to be successful is not always 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>
- Remote Learning parent and student resources: <https://CaswellParentandStudentResources>

On behalf of the *Dillard Middle School* learning community, I would like to extend a safe, wonderful holiday season to you and your family. If you have questions about the content of this letter, please contact **Mrs. Franchesca Gantt** at franchesca.gantt@caswell.k12.nc.us.

Sincerely,

*Mrs. Franchesca Gantt,
Dillard Middle School Principal*