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Dear Parent/Guardian:

November 29, 2023

As a parent/guardian of a student in **Berryhill School**, I am writing this letter to let you know that **Berryhill 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, **Berryhill 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 goals for **Berryhill School** this year:

- The percent of Black and Hispanic 3rd grade students combined who score at the College and Career Ready (CCR) level - a 4 or 5 -- on the English Language Arts (ELA) EOG will increase from 7.9% in SY2021-22 to in SY2023-24. (Aligns to A2.04 and B3.03 and **CMS Goal 1**)
- The percent of 8th grade students who score at the College and Career (CCR) level -- a 4 or 5 -- on the Grade 8 Mathematics EOG will increase from 4.8% in SY2021-22 to 28% in SY2023-24. (Aligns to A2.04 and B3.03 and **CMS Goal 2**)
- We will exceed expected Educator Value Added Assessment System (EVAAS) growth for our overall school index in SY2023-24. (Aligns to A4.01 and B3.03 and **CMS Goal 4**)
- Maintain the proportionality of our Out-of-School Suspension (OSS) data for Black students at 0% in SY2023-24. (Aligns to A4.06 and **CMS Guardrail 1**)
- The percent of students reporting a positive self-perception of their self-efficacy will increase from 58%/47% on the Fall 2021 Panorama Screener (in Grades 3-5/6-12) to 68%/57% in SY2023-24. The data was taken from the 2021 - 2022 Panorama Screener for all K-8 students at Berryhill School. (Aligns to A4.06 and **CMS Guardrail 3**)

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 **Berryhill School** will be implementing:

CMS Goal 1 & 2

A2.04 Instructional teams develop standards-aligned units

- Facilitators and Admin will use summer planning to create ELA lesson plans including small group lesson plans for all teachers grades K-8. (3rd grade reading goal & EVAAS goal)
- Each member of the Leadership Team will coach one or two grade levels. The Get Better Faster/Relay model of coaching will be used. (3rd grade reading goal, 8th grade math goal & EVAAS goal)
- All classroom teachers will utilize data (academic, behavior, attendance) to create fluid small groups for differentiation during content and intervention times. (3rd grade reading goal, 8th grade math goal, FAM-S 29 & EVAAS goal)
- Professional development on lesson planning using standards and complex text for reading and math grades K-8. (3rd grade reading goal, 8th grade math goal & EVAAS goal)

B3.03 The principal monitors curriculum and instruction regularly and provides timely, clear, precise feedback.

- Develop a walkthrough calendar with weekly look-fors to assess the current state of curriculum implementation, SEL instruction, tiered interventions, and classroom management. (Aligns to ALL goals and FAM-S 3)
- Admin walkthroughs daily on a 2 week rotation. Glows & Grows feedback sheet given to each teacher. (3rd grade reading goal, 8th grade math goal, OSS goal & EVAAS goal)
- The Leadership Team will coach their caseload by observation & feedback using the Get Better Faster (RELAY) model. Our focus in coaching this year will be on small group instruction and the use of data. (Aligns to all goals and guardrails and FAM-S-3)
- We will have ongoing monthly professional developments focused on lesson planning, the understanding of standards, the use of complex texts, and small group instruction. This is to help improve knowledge and skills to facilitate individual, school-wide, and district-wide improvements to increase student achievement. (All goals and guardrails and FAM-S-3)
- Complete two core action walkthroughs monthly with admin team. (All goals and guardrails and FAM-S-3)
- Benchmark data meetings - We will collaborate with the DUSI team after each benchmark period to hold data meetings with each PLC to measure progress toward the goals. (All goals and guardrails and FAM-S-3)

CMS Goal 4

A4.01 School implements a tiered instructional system that allows teachers to deliver evidence-based instruction.

- Master schedule will have designated times for each grade to have intervention for MTSS students. (Aligns to EVAAS and FAM-S 3)
- The leadership team will be intentional about scheduling support staff time. Support staff will deliver interventions to the students going through the MTSS process. (Aligns to EVAAS and Fam-S 3)
- Intervention facilitator will have plenty of available support staff to provide effective interventions for students in the MTSS process.
- Berryhill's master schedule will provide ample and designated times for all students in the MTSS process to receive their intervention. An intervention block occurs daily for grades K-8.
- The MTSS team will monitor instruction, plans, and data bi-weekly from a whole-school perspective. Individual student progress is monitored through the student's MTSS plan and individual meeting, with parent and teacher input.

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CMS Guardrail 1 & 3

4.06 All teachers are attentive to students' social emotional states and arrange for supports and interventions when necessary.

- Create time in the master schedule for every class to implement Caring Schools Community SEL curriculum at the same time every day. Leadership team will monitor implementation. (Aligns to SEL and FAM-S 31)
- Capturing Kids' Hearts, Caring Schools Community, and Restorative Practices refresher professional development periodically at staff meetings. (Aligns to SEL and FAM-S 31)
- "Checkers Buddies" is a program we will implement that pairs an adult with an at-risk student. The adult checks in with their buddy as frequently as needed. (Aligns to SEL and FAM-S 31)
- Provide teacher PD, student assemblies, and explicit classroom instruction within the first two weeks of school to communicate consistent expectations around the school-wide behavior matrix. (Aligns to SEL, OSS, EVAAS, and FAM-S 30)
- Execute a three tiered Attendance Plan to decrease our number of chronically absent students by 30% from 2022-23. (Aligns to EVAAS)
- Each classroom will be paired with another classroom and meet once a month. The buddies will complete a project or activity together aligned to the Caring Schools Curriculum. (Aligns to SEL and FAM-S 30)

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 *Cara Bahnson at 980-343-6100* 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 <https://www.cmsk12.org/berryhillIES> and social media sites <https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/school/Berryhill-Pre-K-8-School-Charlotte-Mecklenburg-Schools-141113996026693/>
- Volunteer.
- Join the **PTO**

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:

- Berryhill School
- 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://www.dpi.nc.gov/data-reports/school-report-cards>

We're excited about this school year and are working to make it a success for your students. Already, we have:

- PLC Meetings- Effective use of time with planning and data analysis
- **MVPA Benchmark #1 Bright Spots** - 92% in Math I, 37% in 4th grade math, & 52% in 5th grade science
- **Student Engagement Professional Development** – Clear vision for improvement, evidence of teacher follow-through after PD sessions
- Eat Lunch with Your Child
- Berryhill's Monthly Parent Workshops
- Pop the Trunk Fall & Spring Free Give Away Flea Market
- Monthly Mobile Food Pantry

If you have questions about the content of this letter, please contact **Cara Bahnson** at carah.bahnson@cms.k12.nc.us or **980-343-6100**.

Sincerely,



Cara Bahnson