

February 19, 2024

Dear Parent/Guardian:

I hope the school year has started successfully for all of you. As a parent/guardian of a student in Uwharrie Charter Academy, I am writing this letter to let you know that Uwharrie Charter Academy, 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, Uwharrie Charter Academy 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 Uwharrie Charter Academy this year:

HS – Will focus on writing and test-taking skills across all curriculum areas

MS – Will focus on vocabulary and informational text across all curriculum areas

ES - Will focus on reading and working through text across all curriculum areas

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 Uwharrie Charter Academy will be implementing:

- Provide PD for all staff in ELA and Math – additionally will host mini-PD conference
- Identified teachers at the elementary level will attend LETRS training, supporting the Science of Reading
- Attend AMPS meetings to support all instruction and all students, including those with disabilities



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- Will attend MTSS training, again, supporting core instruction and include intervention for struggling students
- Will create a monitor list of students struggling

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 your school's Principal 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 and social media sites: Facebook or uwharriecharter.org.
- Volunteer.
- Join the Parent Teacher Organization

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:

- Uwharrie Charter Academy webpage
- 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:

If you have questions about the content of this letter, please contact Dr. Sharon Castelli, sharon_castelli@uwharriecharter.org

Sincerely,



Dr. Sharon Castelli, Superintendent