Lowe's Grove Magnet Middle School
"Home of the Vikings"

4418 S. Alston Avenue
Durham, NC 27713
919-560-3946
Jessica Austin, Principal

October 15, 2021

Dear Families,

I am writing to inform you that Lowe's Grove Middle School has been designated as a Targeted Support and 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, Lowe's Grove 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, and Family and Community Engagement.

We have set the following goals for 2021-2022 this year:
- At least 40% of our students will be proficient in Reading and 30% of our students will be proficient in Math.
- 68% of our students will be proficient in 8th grade Science.
- 100% of our students will be proficient in Math 1.

Our students need to experience higher achievement levels, and it will require hard work on the part of staff, students and families. Here are some strategies *Lowe's Grove Middle School* will be implementing:
- School-wide intervention during the school day in reading and math.
- Progress monitoring for all students in core classes.
- Increased instructional time that includes an intervention block.

Parent/Family engagement is at the heart of our school improvement efforts. Here are some ways you can help:
- 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 919-560-3946 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 and limit the amount of time your student spends watching television and playing video games.
- Monitor the progress your student is making and attend meetings with your student's teacher(s).
- Volunteer.
- Join the Parent Teacher Association.

Sounds like a lot but we owe it to our students to work together to prepare them well for life after graduation. Here are some resources available to help:

- DPS ENCORE AfterSchool Program https://www.dpsnc.net/Page/2336
- Graduation requirements: www.ncpublicschools.org/gradrequirements/
- K-12 standards in academic subjects: www.ncpublicschools.org/acre/standards/
- State student achievement test results: www.ncpublicschools.org/accountability/
- N.C. School Report Cards: www.ncreportcards.org/

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

- Changed our schedule to allow for more instructional time.
- Implemented clubs and activities to support more students.
- Had major celebrations to support and encourage positive behavior.

We look forward to partnering with you as we work together – to *ignite the limitless potential* of all of our children.

Sincerely,

Jessica Austin, Principal