

Dear Parent/Guardian:

August 31, 2020

I hope you and your child are having a good school year. As a parent/guardian of a student at Atkinson Elementary, I am writing this letter to let you know about a couple of our successes this year.

This is our third year of implementing the 7 Habits of Highly Effective People as a Leader in Me school. Our continued goal is to identify and amplify student strengths and to help develop the whole person - mind, body, heart, and spirit. Academically, we have implemented a reading and math program, iReady, in Kindergarten through 5th grades. This is also our third year of implementing iReady math in all grade levels. The iReady programs allow teachers to diagnose individual student learning needs, monitor growth over time, and assist teachers with targeted resources. We also continue to increase learning opportunities beyond the classroom through ATK Heritage Day (biennial), Muddy Sneakers, Biltmore House, Kiwanis Spelling Bee, Battle of the Books, student music performances, professional productions at Flat Rock Playhouse, and other opportunities in the community.

As with any success, we also target room to grow and improve. Last year, Atkinson Elementary was designated as a Targeted Support & Improvement- Additional Targeted Support (TSI-AT) school and a Targeted Support & Improvement- Consistently Underperforming (TSI-CU) school by the North Carolina State Board of Education. Since there is no testing data available for the 2019-2020 school year, school designations are unchanged for the 2020-21 school year. 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. TSI-CU schools in North Carolina are those that have a subgroup that is consistently 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 / TSI-CU school, Atkinson Elementary 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. For example, our comprehensive plan will focus on the areas outlined in our school improvement plan, which can be found on our website, or through this link: hendersoncountypublicschoolsnc.org/district/about-us/school-improvement-plans/

Parent 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 the 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 Atkinson Elementary at (828) 697-4755 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 <http://www.hendersoncountypublicschoolsnc.org/atk/>

Preparing our students to succeed is not easy and is a group effort. If you are interested in accessing additional resources that can help your child or your child's school, please contact your child's teacher/s or the principal.

If you have questions about the content of this letter, please contact Mark Page at (828) 697-4755.

Mark Page
Principal - Atkinson Elementary