



Upward Elementary School

45 Education Drive
Flat Rock, North Carolina 28731
Phone: (828) 697-4764
Fax: (828) 698-6131

Michael Gates, Principal
mdgates@hcpsnc.org
Tyler Walker, A.P.
tkwalker@hcpsnc.org

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Dear Parent/Guardian:

I hope that you and your child are having a good school year. As a parent/guardian of a student in Upward Elementary, I am writing this letter to let you know about a couple of our successes this past year. Last year we continued our implementation of the Leader In Me program. We completed our 5th year of the program and our staff and students are always growing and using the language and meaning of the program naturally. Our second success was that while we didn't have all our students in front of us due to the virtual instruction during the COVID-19 pandemic our teachers were able to sharpen their use of technology as an instructional tool. Our teachers continue to look for ways to support students academically and in their social/emotional development.

As with any success, we also target room to grow and improve. This year, Upward Elementary, 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, Upward 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 address focus on the areas outlined in our school improvement plan, which can be found on our website.

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 child 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 child's teacher(s).
- Call Ms. Liliana Martinez at 697-4764 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 child is prepared and attends school each day.
- Monitor your child's homework.
- Monitor the progress your child is making and attend meetings with your child's teacher(s).
- Keep track of our website and social media sites: Facebook.com/UpwardEagles/ and @UpwardEagles on Twitter

Preparing our students so that they can 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 Michael Gates at mdgates@hcpsnc.org or call at 828-697-4764.

Sincerely,

Michael Gates
Principal

