September 2, 2020

Dear Owen High School Parent/Guardian:

At the start of the school year, I am required to share some accountability information. In the 18-19 school year we earned a B school rating, but no data is available from 19-20 due to Covid-19. Prior to 19-20 we exceeded our expected growth 4 years in a row. In 18-19 we were in the top 5% for academic growth of all schools in the state of North Carolina. We are extremely proud of the work our students and teachers have done to achieve these outcomes.

As our school performance data is defined, we have four subgroups to monitor (Hispanics, Economically Disadvantaged, Students with Disabilities, and White). Unfortunately, out of the four subgroups, Students with Disabilities, did not reach their expected performance target. As stated in the federal Elementary and Secondary Schools Act, Section 1111(d)(2), North Carolina had to identify schools for targeted support and improvement. As a result, Owen High has been designated as a Targeted Support & Improvement - Consistently Underperforming (TSI-CU) school by the North Carolina State Board of Education. The intent of this law is to improve educational outcomes for all students, close achievement gaps, increase equity, and improve the quality of instruction and I am required to share this information.

As a TSI-CU school, Owen High School is required to develop a comprehensive plan that specifically addresses how the school will improve student achievement. The comprehensive plan is encompassed in our School Improvement Plan (SIP) with the following goals:

1. Increase the percentage of students who are level proficient on EOC exams by 3 percentage points each year.
2. Increase the number of students who are considered career and college ready as measured by an ACT composite score of 17 by 3 percentage points each year from 60.1% in 2018 to at least 63.1% in 2019 and 66.1% in 2020.
3. Improve student instruction by providing teachers with appropriate time to acquire or implement personalized professional development. The percentage of teachers reporting on the NC Teacher Working Condition Survey (Q8.1 b) who agree or strongly agree that they are provided with appropriate professional development will increase from 67% (2018) to meet or exceed the state rate in 2020.
4. The percentage of seniors who report on the annual BCS student survey that they agree or strongly agree on Question 10 - “I am successful at school.” will increase by 2 percentage points per year over the past two years’ results, which were combined as 80%.

As you know, it requires hard work on the part of staff, students and families for our students to achieve academic targets. Parental engagement is essential.
- Keep PowerSchool contact updated so you receive my weekly messages.
- Make sure that your child is prepared and attends school each day.
- Make sure that both you and your child are aware of academic expectations set for the school year.
- Call the Owen counseling office at 828-686-3915 if you have questions or concerns about your child or to set up an appointment to meet with school staff.
- Monitor your child’s school work.
- Keep track of information on our school website and Facebook page.
- Join the Owen High PTO.

Sounds like a lot but preparing our students so they can succeed is not easy and is a group effort. Here are some resources available to help:

- Graduation requirements: [www.ncpublicschools.org/gradrequirements/](http://www.ncpublicschools.org/gradrequirements/)
- K-12 standards in academic subjects: [www.ncpublisschools.org/curriculum/](http://www.ncpublisschools.org/curriculum/)
- State student achievement test results: [www.ncpublicschools.org/accountability/](http://www.ncpublicschools.org/accountability/)
- N.C. School Report Cards: [https://ncreportcards.ondemand.sas.com/src](https://ncreportcards.ondemand.sas.com/src)

We will continue on our path of academic excellence for every student. If you have questions about the content of this letter, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Meg Turner, ED.M.
Principal

MT/jh