



Charles T. Koontz Intermediate School

305 Overlook Road
Asheville, NC 28803
828-684-1295



Reginald Bright, Principal

Chris Cowan, Assistant Principal

August 25, 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian:

I hope the school year has started successfully for all of you. As a parent/guardian of a student at Koontz Intermediate, I am writing this letter to let you know that *Koontz Intermediate* 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 underperforming subgroup at Koontz is our Students with Disabilities. 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, *Koontz Intermediate* 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:

- 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
- Classroom Management

We have set the following goals for *Koontz Intermediate* this year:

- We will increase school-wide reading proficiency to 65% by June 2019, and to 68% by June 2020.
- We will increase school-wide math proficiency to 60% by 2019, and to 63% by 2020.

- We will increase 5th grade science proficiency from 69.5% in 2018 to 73% in 2019 and to 76% in 2020.
- We will increase the percentage of students identified as Limited English Proficiency achieving proficiency in reading and math by 2% in 2019 and an additional 2% in 2020.
- We will increase the percentage of students identified as EC achieving proficiency in reading and math by 2% in 2019 and an additional 2% in 2020.

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 *Koontz Intermediate* will be implementing:

- *I-Ready/IXL computer program 45 minutes a week in ELA and MATH*
- *Two teacher teams instead of three teacher teams*
- *Employing 2 Title I Reading Teachers*
- *Employing 1 Math Tutor*
- *Daily 45 minute Intervention/Enrichment block*

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 child's teacher* 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 site (<https://ctkis.buncombeschools.org/>)
- Volunteer.
- Join the *Koontz Intermediate PTO.*

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:

- 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.

If you have questions about the content of this letter, please contact the principal at reginald.bright@bcsemail.org or 828.684.1295.

Sincerely,

Reginald Bright
Principal

