

Academy at Middle Fork



APPALACHIAN STATE UNIVERSITY®

December 15, 2019

Dear Parent/Guardian:

As a parent/guardian of a student enrolled at Appalachian State Academy at Middle Fork, I am writing this letter to inform you that Appalachian State Academy at Middle Fork, has been designated as a Comprehensive Support & Improvement Low-Performing (CSI-LP) school by the North Carolina State Board of Education. As stated in ESSA Section 1111(c)(4)(D)(i), North Carolina had to identify schools for comprehensive support and improvement. CSI-LP schools in North Carolina are those found in the lowest-performing 5 percent of all schools receiving Title I funding. The intent of this opportunity is to improve educational outcomes for all students, close achievement gaps, increase equity, and improve the quality of instruction.

This designation was based on data from the 2017-18 school year when Middle Fork Elementary was a part of Winston Salem/Forsyth County Schools with the school code of 340447. Middle Fork Elementary is now a UNC Lab School, Appalachian Academy at Middle Fork, with a school code of 34Z000. At the time of designation, 70% of the students currently in membership were enrolled in the school when the data for the CSI-LP identification was determined. In just one year, we have accomplished great strides meeting all of our expected goals in Reading, Math, and Science.

The Academy received a school performance grade of D and a growth designation of Met Expected Growth for the 2018-19 school year. This designation of D is growth from our previous score of F when the Academy was Middle Fork. As a CSI-LP school, Appalachian State Academy at Middle Fork is required to develop a comprehensive plan that specifically addresses how the school will improve student achievement. The plan will also include how Appalachian State University will support us and monitor the progress of our school. The comprehensive plan will address the following areas:

- Classroom Management through PBIS structures and coaching support
- Standard-aligned Instruction
- Professional Learning Communities (PLCs)
- Data-Driven Decision Making and Instructional Interventions
- Recruitment and Retention of Effective Teachers
- Family and Community Engagement
- Improve student achievement in Math and Reading as measured by the Informal Reading Inventory and the North Carolina E.O.G.

Our students need to experience higher achievement levels, but it will require hard work on the part of the staff, students, and families. Here are some strategies the Academy will be implementing:

- Reading Workshop: Small group instruction focused on guided reading on students' instructional levels and word study.
- Shared Reading and Writing: Teachers will model reading strategies and then support students as they implement the new strategies on their own.
- Hands-on Math Instruction: Students will engage with hands-on math activities to improve problem-solving and a deep understanding of math computation.
- Social-Studies and Science Instruction: Students have time each day to engage in science and social studies contact that helps them connect with the world around them.

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 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 the school office at (336)748-4090 to speak with Principal Tasha Hall-Powell, Dr. Amie Snow, Director of Curriculum and Instruction or Mr. Daniels, our Director of Student Affairs 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 - Twitter: <https://twitter.com/appstateacademy>; Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/appstateacademy/>.
- Volunteer in your child's classroom. See Dr. Snow for details.
- Join our Appalachian State Academy Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO).

This may seem 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:

- Our school website: <https://middlefork.appstate.edu/>
- 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. App Academy is committed to Learning Together; Developing the Whole Child; Boosting Academics and Amplifying Sustainability. We will continue to provide our Academy scholars with increased access to literature, high-interest reading resources, increased access to technology and real-world connections through author visits, cooperative learning, and bringing history and cultural relevance to life through experiential and hands-on learning.

- Our Literacy program is specifically designed to build better readers through targeted interventions to increase student outcomes.
- Students have opportunities to explore cultural experiences and understanding more about who they are, understanding change and how to better take care of the world we live in as responsible citizens.
- Teachers have been provided with on-going, high-quality professional development from Appalachian State University professors
- Creation and collaboration of an enhanced curriculum that allows for more student engagement and hands-on experiential learning to increase focus and sustained-interest for our students in a literacy-rich environment.

If you have questions about the content of this letter, please contact Principal Tasha Hall-Powell at hallpowelltm@appstate.edu or Dr. Amie Snow, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, snowab@appstate.edu or you may call the school directly at (336)748-4090.

Sincerely,

Tasha Hall-Powell
Principal
Appalachian State Academy at Middle Fork