EXCELSIOR
CLASSICAL ACADEMY

October 4, 2024

Dear Parent/Guardian:

I hope the school year is off to a successful start for you and your child. I am writing this letter to let you know that Excelsior Classical Academy has been designated as a Targeted Support & Improvement Additional Targeted Support (TSI-AT) school by the North Carolina State Board of Education. Per ESSA Section 1111(d)(2), schools are identified as TSI-AT schools in North Carolina because one or more of the following subgroups received a subgroup performance grade score at or below the highest identified CSI-LP school's All Students group during the identification year; and is on the TSI-CU list for the subgroup(s) for the previous year. Subgroup performance scores are provided for the following subgroups: (1) Students with Disabilities, (2) Economically Disadvantaged, (3) Black, (4) White, (5) Hispanic, (6) Asian-Pacific Islander, (7) Multi-racial, and (8) English Learners. This letter is to notify our parents and guardians of Excelsior Classical Academy's intentions to improve educational outcomes for underperforming student subgroups and close achievement gaps for all students.

As a TSI-AT (ATSI) school, Excelsior Classical Academy is required to develop an Additional Targeted Support and Improvement (ATSI) plan that specifically addresses how the school will improve outcomes for underperforming subgroups. The plan will also include strategies that our district or charter will employ to support ECA's improvement efforts. The ATSI plan will address the following areas:

- Focus on Core Instruction with Differentiation
- Instructional Leadership and Coaching
- Recruitment & Retention of Effective Teachers
- Implementation of a Tiered Instructional System
- Data-Driven Decision Making
- Student Support Services
- Family and Community Engagement

We have set the following goals for ECA this year:

- Professional Development on differentiation; curriculum that lays out ways to differentiate
- Hiring an MTSS Coordinator to focus on our tiered system of support
- Professional Development for MTSS Coordinator to lead Data-Driven Decision Making
- Train the Trainer Professional Development for leadership staff for Core Knowledge and MTSS process
- Having Parent Nights to help parents engage in and support our curriculum
- Regular opportunities for Parent Teacher Conferences

Here are some strategies that we will be implementing to improve student outcomes:

- Use of IXL program and Hill RAP for remediation and support in reading and math
- Tutoring program before and after school

Also, parent engagement is at the heart of our school improvement efforts. Here are some ways we can work together:

- Ensure that both you and your child know the academic expectations set for your child this school year. A list of learning objectives in student-friendly language is available from your student's teacher(s).

- Email your child's teacher, your School Dean, the Student Support Services Coordinator, or the Executive Director 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 child. The Faculty Directory may be found on our website: Excelsior.CFAcademy.School/directory-staff-faculty/
- Make sure that your child is prepared and attends school each day, on time and for the whole day.
- Monitor your child's homework.
- Monitor the progress your child is making and attend meetings with your child's teacher(s).
- Visit Excelsior.CFAcademy.School or Facebook.com/ExcelsiorClassicalAcademy, join our Facebook Excelsior Pride Message Board at https://www.facebook.com/groups/217994008661539/.
- Volunteer. You can find ways to volunteer on our website: Excelsior.CFAcademy.School/get-involved-2/.

Additionally, listed below are a few 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 are committed to improving student performance. It is important to remember that just as no single score or grade tells the whole story of a student, neither does it tell you everything about a school's performance or the opportunities that our school provides. The intent of receiving these designations is to improve educational outcomes for all students, close achievement gaps, increase equity, and improve the quality of instruction. We're excited about this school year and are working to make it a success for your child. Already, we have made progress:

- Our school grade went up by 7 points in the 2023-2024 school year, and we met growth. We now have a C and are pushing to improve each year. We also went through the school accreditation process with Cognia last year, and we were notified in July that we are now accredited.

- Excelsior Classical Academy offers Spanish daily in grades K-5; Special classes in Art, Dance, Drama, Music, and PE in grades K-5; Music, Drama, PE, and Art Electives in middle grades; Latin I and II in grades 7 and 8 for high school credit; Math 1 in eighth grade for high school credit with the option for compacted Math 1 and 2 for those who qualify academically; student council in middle school; regular, honors, and AP level courses in high school; early college in the junior and senior years through dual enrollment for simultaneous high school and college credit, with the option of earning an associate degree while in high school; National Student Council, National Honor Society, and many clubs and activities in high school

- A strong school community supported by the Excelsior Parent Teacher Student Organization, which provides teacher appreciation activities and many family events such as Fall Festival, Spring Fling, Latin Culture Family Night, and Black Culture Night.

If you have questions about the content of this letter, please contact Cynthia Gadol at 919-213-8585.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Gadol, MSA
Executive Director