



At Emereau, we illuminate to embark; we investigate to discover; we innovate to transform; we cultivate to sustain; we celebrate to thrive - realizing the potential within us - we graduate. $E=i^3c^2g!$

Illuminate Investigate Innovate Cultivate Celebrate Graduate

November 4, 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian:

As a parent/guardian of a student in Emereau: Bladen Charter School, I am writing this letter to let you know that Emereau: Bladen, has been designated as a Targeted Support & Improvement Additional Targeted Support (TSI-AT) school and has been designated as a low-performing 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. As defined in G.S. 115C-105.37: "The State Board of Education shall identify low-performing schools on an annual basis. Low-performing schools are those that earn an overall school performance grade of D or F and a school growth score of "met expected growth" or "not met expected growth" as defined by G.S. 115C-83.15." The intent of this opportunity is to improve educational outcomes for all students, close achievement gaps, increase equity, and improve the quality of instruction.

Legislation (G.S. §115C-83.15) passed during the 2013 long session of the North Carolina General Assembly provides parents with an additional measure of school performance in the form of School Performance Grades. Beginning with the 2013–14 school year, the annual North Carolina School Report Cards display a letter grade of A, B, C, D, or F for each school in the state.

The School Performance Grades are based 80 percent on our school's achievement score (student proficiency) and 20 percent on students' academic growth. At Emereau: Bladen our achievement score for the 2021-2022 school year is based on how well our students performed on Grades 3–8 Mathematics, Grades 3–8 English Language Arts/Reading, and Grades 5 and 8 Science.

Emereau: Bladen received a School Performance Grade of D and a growth designation of Did Not Meet for the 2021–2022 school year. Although we are committed to improving this score, it is important to remember that just as no one single score or grade tells the whole story of a student, neither does it tell you everything about the performance of a school or the opportunities that our school provides.

As a TSI-AT school and as a school designated as NC low-performing, Emereau: Bladen 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:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Classroom Management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instructional Leadership
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standards-aligned Instruction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recruitment & Retention of Effective Teachers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Professional Learning Communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support for Grade-to-Grade Transitions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of a Tiered Instructional System 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data-Driven Decision Making
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Student Support Services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family and Community Engagement

We have set the following goals for Emereau: Bladen this year:

- All students will demonstrate a minimum of a year's worth of growth over the course of the academic year.
- All teachers will be provided and engaged in on- going professional development, centered around the vision of Emereau, and will demonstrate a year's worth of growth (social, emotional, and academic) among all students.

Post Office Box 547
 995 Airport Road, Elizabethtown, North Carolina 28337
 Phone: (910) 247-6595 Fax: (910) 247-6643



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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 Emereau: Bladen will be implementing:

- Specific resources for math curriculum K-8 (Go Math and Into Math)
- Provide direct phonics instruction for K-5 (Reading Horizons)
- Use grant money to provide extra instructional assistance for students that have learning gaps
- Provide a schedule to allow exploration teachers to deliver interventions to small groups where gaps are evident

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 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(s) 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 (<https://www.emereau.org/>) and social media sites (Facebook).
- Volunteer.
- Join the "Cargo Crew"/ 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/
- 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://www.dpi.nc.gov/data-reports/school-report-cards>

We're excited about this school year and are working to make it a success for your student. Already, we have:

- Increased proficiency from 2020- 2021 to 2021- 2022 (evidences some growth in recovery from COVID)
- Implemented "Whole Brain Teaching" for classroom management
- Provided professional development on using classroom data to drive instruction
- Installed a new outdoor classroom
- Created a schedule for middle school that provides a wide variety of courses
- Implemented a schedule that allows interventions for small groups or individuals
- Competed in boys' soccer and girls' volleyball games
- 4th- 8th grades will celebrate musical arts with performances in November
- Organizational meeting for Cargo Crew/ PTO takes place November 17

If you have questions about the content of this letter, please contact Elizabeth Cole at elizabethcole@emereau.org or 910-247-6595.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Cole
Executive Director