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**VALLEY SPRINGS MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
"A Continuing Tradition of Excellence Since 1919"  
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**Date:** September 1, 2020

**Subject:** Targeted Support for Students with Disabilities Subgroup

Dear Valley Springs Rams:

We have had an excellent start of the school year so far; our positive and strong momentum at Valley Springs keeps moving forward thanks to you, our strong community, and most certainly our students! As a parent/guardian of a Valley Springs student, I am writing to let you know that we have been designated as a Targeted Support & Improvement Additional Targeted Support (TSI-AT) for our Students with Disabilities Subgroup 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. It is because this mandate that I am required to send you this letter. TSI-AT schools in North Carolina are those schools that have a subgroup that is underperforming. Our underperforming subgroup at Valley Springs is our Students with Disabilities (SWD). The intent of TSI designated schools is to improve educational outcomes for all students, close achievement gaps, increase equity, and improve the quality of instruction.

As a TSI-AT school, we are required to develop a plan that specifically addresses how we will improve student achievement. This plan will also include how our district will support us and monitor the progress of our school. Our plan will address the following areas:

- Classroom Management and Student Discipline
- Standards-aligned Instruction
- Professional Learning Communities (PLCs)
- Instructional Leadership
- Recruitment & Retention of Effective Teachers
- Data-Driven Decision Making
- Student Support Services
- Family and Community Engagement

We have already been implementing several components of our plan with solid results so far. To exit TSI school status, our students in our targeted subgroup must experience higher achievement levels on their End of Grade testing; increasing these results will require hard work on the part of faculty, students, and families.

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 students this school year. A list of learning objectives in student-friendly language is available from your student's teacher(s).
- Call Valley Springs if you have questions or concerns about your student or to set up an appointment to meet with your student's teachers, counselors, or administrators.
- Make sure that your student is prepared and attends school each day (whether we in-person or remote).
- Monitor your student's academic progress by checking their PowerSchool grades daily.
- Volunteer.
- Join our Valley Springs Middle School Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) to stay connected to our school and Valley Springs community.

Additionally, here are some online resources available to help:

- Graduation requirements: [www.ncpublicschools.org/gradrequirements/](http://www.ncpublicschools.org/gradrequirements/)
- K-12 standards in academic subjects: [www.ncpublicschools.org/curriculum/](http://www.ncpublicschools.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>

We are excited about the rest of the first semester and duration of this academic year! We believe that all our students, regardless of their subgroup labelling or academic predictions, can and will learn. We know that we are a school that excels in all areas and believe that when students and their families take advantage of the educational opportunities provided at Valley Springs, they can flourish beyond belief.

If you have questions about the content of this letter, our Students with Disabilities subgroup, or any happenings at Valley Springs, please do not hesitate to contact me directly. Thank you for your time.

Go Rams,



Benjamin S. Alexander, Ed.S.

Principal, Valley Springs Middle School