



CHARLOTTE VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL

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Charlotte Valley Looks to Improve

In order to excel, to truly improve, one must work at it. However, work, in that of itself, without meaning, will not always yield results. A mentor of mine once told me, "Just because you are good at doing something doesn't mean it will yield the results you need; you may need to re-think what you're good at to get what you want." Sometimes, a change is needed. As you are aware, Charlotte Valley was identified in the 2015-2016 school year as a Focus School District based on our 2014-2015 High School ELA and Math Combined Performance Index. The cut-score was 124.5; *Charlotte Valley scored a 124.*

As a result of becoming identified as a Focus School, we, as a District and community of learners, have had to assess our practices. Last May the State Education Department visited our school for three days and conducted walk-throughs. The data that they gathered provided us with crucial information that has pinpointed areas of need. Our District has since formed a School Comprehensive Education Plan (SCEP) and a team to follow through with its initiatives – a SCEP Team. The SCEP Team meets monthly to discuss data and the overall improvement plan of the District. Further, under the suggestion of the State Education Department, Charlotte Valley has adopted the Common Core Math Modules in all grades, pK-11. We look forward to collecting the data that these modules will provide us as we look to strengthen our math program.

The professional staff at Charlotte Valley has really gone above and beyond to cater to and service the needs of our most valuable resource – *our students*. Change is never an easy thing, but it was time a change took place at Charlotte Valley. It just so happened to be in the form of being identified as a Focus School.

All in all, we look at this as a positive. I have faith in this staff. I have faith in our students. We've been doing a good job over the years and certainly working hard. However, reminiscent of what my mentor told me, we have been forced to re-think what we have been doing in order to get what we want. What exactly are we looking for? What do we want? Below is one of our SMART Goals for the 2016-2017 school year.

- By June 2017 all staff will implement instructional strategies that promote a student-centered learning environment to increase student achievement on all New York State assessments by 15% including the use of learning targets, engagement protocols and higher order questions, as monitored monthly by the school data team.

With your support, we will not only meet but exceed this goal! Please talk to your child each night about what they did or are doing in school. Reach out to your child's classroom teacher. Join the PTO. Give us a call and ask us how you can get involved!

On behalf of all of us here at Charlotte Valley, I wish you a Happy Fall. Thank you for the opportunity to serve you and teach your children.

Best,

Tom Molle