

# ***MICS Parent's Guide to Student Achievement (PGSA)***

## **Based on Parents' Bill of Rights - SB 49; Session Law 2023-106**

It is the goal of Mountain Island Charter School to offer parents and guardians access to information regarding student achievement via the district's Parent's Guide to Student Achievement (PGSA). Should you wish to obtain paper copies of this document and its contents, you can make a request through the school administration.

<p><b>1a) How can my child be promoted to the next grade level?</b></p>	<p>The following are the relevant State and local requirements for a child to be promoted to the next grade level. The relevant part of this link is found in <a href="#">Part 1A (pp. 15-28)</a> regarding retention, promotion, alternatives to show reading proficiency, etc. <a href="#">N.C. Grade Level Promotion Guide</a>.</p> <p>Information about Mountain Island Charter School's Promotion and Accountability procedures and Graduation Requirements can be found in our Parent/Student Handbooks (<a href="#">Elementary School</a>, <a href="#">Middle/High School</a>) found under Quick Links at <a href="http://www.micharter.org">www.micharter.org</a>.</p>
<p><b>1b) What is my child learning at school? How can a parent review these materials?</b></p>	<p>In North Carolina, all schools use the same Standard Course of Study, determined by the State Board of Education. These standards are the knowledge and skills students should understand by the end of each grade/course.</p> <p>The standards can be found on the NCDPI Office of Academic Standards <a href="#">website</a>. There are standards for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Arts Education,</li><li>● Career Technical Education,</li><li>● Computer Science,</li></ul>

- English Language Arts,
- English Language Development,
- Student Success Standards,
- Healthful Living,
- Information and Technology,
- Mathematics,
- Science,
- Social Studies, and
- World Language.

Local districts, schools and teachers determine how to teach these standards, including curriculum, supplementary materials, books, etc.

The curriculum at Mountain Island Charter School follows the North Carolina Standard Course of Study (NCSCOS). The NCSCOS defines the appropriate content standards for each grade or proficiency level and each high school course to provide a uniform set of learning standards for every public school in North Carolina. These standards define what students are expected to know and be able to do by the end of each school year or course. Parents are provided their child's course of study, including textbooks and the source of any supplementary instructional materials in a variety of ways: in the Parent/Student Handbook, at Back to School night, at Curriculum Nights and through teacher communications. Parents may inspect and review all textbooks and supplementary instructional materials that will be used in their child's classroom at Back to School night, at Curriculum Nights, and by making an appointment with their child's teacher. Policies for curriculum inspection and review are available in the [Parent's Bill of Rights policies](#) available on our school website.

Mountain Island Charter School also offers courses in the area of Career and Technical Education (CTE). These courses allow students to explore careers and earn credentials. CTE Career Clusters, Pathways, Course Information, Credentials, and Course Standards

may be found at this link: [Course Management System](#)

The list below lists curriculum materials used by teachers at Mountain Island Charter School:

- Elementary School (K-5)
  - Math - Envisions
  - Literacy - Benchmark Advance
  - Science - Foss
  - Social Studies - My World Interactive
- Middle School/High School (grades 6-12)
  - Math - Maneuvering the Middle, Delta Math
  - ELA - SAVVAS Learning Systems
  - Social Studies - SAVVAS Learning Systems
  - Science - McGraw Hill

#### **HEALTHFUL LIVING: Reproductive Health and Safety**

MICS is committed to a sound school health program that provides students with accurate information and encourages them to be responsible for their own health and behavior. The school recognizes the primary role of parents/guardians in providing for the health and well-being of their children and seeks to involve parents/guardians in the school. The school health education program provided will meet all requirements established by state and federal law. The school health education program will meet all objectives in the North Carolina Standard Course of Study adopted by the State Board of Education. Detailed curricular standards are accessible for review [HERE](#).

The school health education program will be taught to students from grades K-9. In grades 5-9 students are taught Reproductive Health and Safety. Every effort will be made to provide quality Family Life Education instruction for your child. Teachers will only use approved curriculum materials and supplements when teaching in the classroom.

	<p>The school will communicate with parents prior to beginning the Reproductive Health and Safety Unit. All parents/guardians have the right to “opt out” of this unit. If you choose to exclude your child, you must do so in writing to the principal and teacher stating you do not want your child to participate. Alternate and comparable assignments will be given.</p> <p>Mountain Island Charter School has an MTSS framework and intervention plan to support students at all stages of learning.</p>
<p><b>1c) How will a parent learn about my child’s progress in school or with a class?</b></p>	<p>Mountain Island Charter School shares progress of students through a variety of ways, including quarterly report cards, progress reports, and assignment/test feedback. Feedback on conduct is also included. Policies for student assessment and reporting are available in the <a href="#">Parent’s Bill of Rights policies</a> available on our school website.</p> <p>Mountain Island Charter School shares the progress of students in a variety of ways. Progress reports (every 4.5 weeks) and report cards (every 9 weeks) are sent to parents in order to communicate student academic strengths and any areas for improvement. Feedback on conduct is also included. Each quarter’s report cards are sent home electronically, and parents may request hard copies of these reports. Students receive a Traditional Report Card calculated using a 10-point grading scale. Parents have access to their child’s grades through PowerSchool.</p> <p>Students not yet meeting grade level proficiency standards in math, literacy and/or behavior are served through the MTSS model, which consists of several tiers of academic and behavioral supports -</p> <p>Tier 1: Universal interventions for all students.  Tier 2: Targeted interventions for students who need additional support.  Tier 3: Intensive interventions for students with significant needs.</p> <p>The school regularly monitors progress towards learning goals and works collaboratively with the student and family to support student success.</p>

**State Assessments:**

Individual Student Reports for end-of-grade/course tests and other state assessments (English language proficiency assessment) are accessible in the parent portal of the NC-SIS (PowerSchool).

In NC, all students take end-of-grade assessments for reading and math in grades 3-8. Students take end-of-grade science assessments in grades 5 and 8. In high school, students take end-of-course assessments in English II, Biology, NC Math 1, and NC Math 3.

Students in Grade 10 take the Pre-ACT. Students in grade 11 take the ACT. Students who are CTE Concentrators in Grade 12 take ACT WorkKeys. Those results are shared by ACT.

An **Individual Reading Plan** (IRP) shall be developed for any student in kindergarten through third grade demonstrating difficulty with reading. An IRP will have specific strategies/ideas that can be done at home.

Parents and caregivers may view Mountain Island Charter School aligned literacy resources at <https://www.benchmarkeducation.com/families>.

North Carolina's Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) selected mCLASS DIBELS<sup>®</sup> 8th Edition as the state's K-3 Literacy Assessment. mCLASS is an integrated literacy system based on the Science of Reading. mCLASS has been revised and upgraded from the assessment NC districts have used in the past, based on the latest research and the Science of Reading. It is a valid and reliable assessment, supporting universal literacy screening, screening for risk of dyslexia, and progress monitoring.

**Benchmark Assessments** are given to all students in grades K-8. MICS uses the Amplify assessment platform to assess and progress monitor students in reading (grades K-3). MICS uses the iReady learning platform to assess and progress monitor students in reading (grades 4-8) and mathematics (grades K-8). The school will report on student progress 3

	times per year.
<p><b>1d) What are the qualifications of my child’s teachers?</b></p>	<p>Parents may look up your child’s teacher licensure status at this website <a href="#">Link to the licensure website</a>.</p> <p>The licensure look up webpage does not include current employment information. Parents may need additional information (i.e., middle name or license number) to identify the teacher accurately. Substitute teachers (either short or long term) may not hold a NC teaching license.</p> <p>Any teacher who is teaching a core subject (math, science, reading) must have a college degree. The school may employ teachers who do not have a NC license. MICS strives to employ certified teachers and strive to provide teacher support through professional development and training.</p>
<p><b>1e) What are the requirements for school enrollment? What are the immunizations needed or recommended for children?</b></p>	<p><a href="#"><b>115C-218.45. Admission requirements.</b></a></p> <p>MICS holds a lottery annually to fill spots that will open for the coming school year. MICS provides enrollment priorities in accordance with G.S. 115c-218.45, which include sibling preference and preference for students who have attended a charter school in the prior school year.</p> <p>Students applying for kindergarten must be 5 years old by September 1st of that school year. Students must live in the state of NC to apply.</p> <p>Mountain Island Charter School follows all state and federal laws regarding immunization requirements and exemptions. Immunization records or notice of exemption are required to be submitted by the 30th calendar day of school by the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services. Failure to submit a required immunization record or notice of exemption by the 30th calendar day of school will result in the student not being permitted to attend school until it is received.</p>

	<p>The following are statutory school entry requirements, this includes required immunizations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Admission requirements: <a href="#">GS 115C-364.pdf (ncleg.gov)</a></li> <li>- Immunization records: <a href="#">GS 130A-155.pdf (ncleg.gov)</a></li> <li>- Immunization requirements: <a href="#">GS 130A-152.pdf (ncleg.gov)</a> (*this law was amended but is not reflected on the current GA page; see <a href="#">SL2023-134.pdf (ncleg.gov)</a>, Section 5.8(e) on page 64")</li> </ul> <p>Information on required health assessments and immunizations for students are available through the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS). NCDHHS <a href="#">Immunizations</a> Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Recommended Immunization Schedules <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <a href="#">Kindergarten Entry Vaccine Requirements</a></li> <li>- <a href="#">Seventh Grade Entry Vaccine Requirements</a></li> <li>- <a href="#">Twelfth Grade Entry Vaccine Requirements</a></li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><a href="#">Information about immunization exemptions</a></p>
<p><b>2a) How can a parent help their child learn and make progress?</b></p>	<p>Engaging with your child about school and what they are learning is pivotal to their learning process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Ask questions daily about your child’s school day.</li> <li>● Inquire about topics and assignments they are learning.</li> <li>● Connect with teachers to understand your child’s progress.</li> <li>● Ask the teachers how you can help your child learn.</li> <li>● Attend different events at your child’s school to stay connected and learn how to support them.</li> </ul> <p><b>Parent Guides for Academic Standards:</b> The following grade level guides contain information to support</p>

	<p>parents and caregivers with understanding the North Carolina Standard Course of Study. The purpose of these guides is to inform parents about the standards, as well as provide useful strategies to incorporate at home.</p> <p>Parent Guides for <a href="#">ELA</a>  Parent Guide for <a href="#">ELD</a>  Math Parent Guides: <a href="#">K-5</a>, <a href="#">6-8</a>  <a href="#">Social Studies Parent Guides</a>  <a href="#">Science Parent Guides</a></p> <p><b>Reading and Literacy Support:</b>  This following site provides resources for families to practice and reinforce important literacy skills with their children: <a href="#">Amplify Parent Resources</a></p> <p>Home activities, printables, and games to support reading and literacy are also available at North Carolina’s <a href="#">Digital Children’s Reading Initiative</a> (DCRI). These activities include the following topics, Pre-K-Grade 5:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Phonemic awareness</li> <li>(2) Phonics</li> <li>(3) Vocabulary</li> <li>(4) Fluency</li> <li>(5) Comprehension</li> <li>(6) Oral language</li> </ol> <p>Printable activities will be made available for students who do not have digital access at home and may be provided to all students as a supplement to digital resources. For paper copies, please contact the main office for your child’s school (Elementary School or Middle/High School) at 704-827-8840. <a href="#">DCRI Printables</a> for Families</p>
2b) <b>How can a parent help their</b>	Mountain Island Charter School embeds Portrait of a Graduate skills in the classroom and



<p><b>child develop citizenship, social skills and respect for others?</b></p>	<p>school setting. These durable skills were developed by NCDPI and will support a child’s understanding of citizenship, social skills and respect for others.</p> <p>Grade level specific resources, including developmentally appropriate milestones can be found in the following resource repository  <a href="#">NC Portrait of a Graduate - Durable Skills.</a></p> <p>Parents are encouraged to partner with their student services teams in their work to support academic achievement, develop interpersonal skills, strengthen mental wellness, and explore career activities after graduation. School counseling, psychological services, and social work staff encourage students to learn skills in emotional regulation to support healthy decision-making skills and emotional development.</p>
<p><b>2c) How can a parent help their child develop citizenship, social skills and respect for others?</b></p>	<p>MICS embeds Portrait of a Graduate skills in the classroom and school setting. These durable skills were developed by NCDPI and will support a child’s understanding of citizenship, social skills and respect for others.</p> <p>Grade level specific resources, including developmentally appropriate milestones can be found in the following resource repository  <a href="#">NC Portrait of a Graduate - Durable Skills.</a></p>
<p><b>2d) How can a parent strengthen communication with the school/teacher?</b></p>	<p>Effective communication between school and home is vital to the successful academic, social, and emotional well-being of all students. MICS will communicate often and by a variety of means in an effort to keep parents informed of the happenings at school and the growth of the students. The following are samples of methods of communication used by MICS.</p> <p>MICS student planners are a required component of each 6th–8th grade student’s school</p>

materials. These planners assist the student with organization and facilitate communication between the parents and teacher regarding homework assignments, future tests and quizzes, and other relevant academic information.

Mountain Island Charter School uses the following platforms for communication between home and school and to provide information about our school, your child's classroom, and your child's progress.

- General information is available at [www.micharter.org](http://www.micharter.org).
- Our system is also capable of conducting school-wide communication using Parent Square (<https://www.parentsquare.com>).

Parents can view students' grades in the PowerSchool parent portal – <https://mics.powerschool.com>. Directions and credentials to log in PowerSchool are provided to parents by the school.

#### **Parent/Teacher Conferences**

Parent/Teacher Conferences may be scheduled to allow parents and teachers to discuss a child's performance at school. Conferences can be held as needed, before or after school as well as during the school day per teacher availability. After the end of the first quarter, there is one teacher workday that provides opportunities for Parent/Teacher conferences. Additional conferences may be scheduled as needed throughout the remainder of the school year. Parents/Guardians should contact their child's teacher(s) to schedule a conference.

The following are NCDPI developed parent guides that provide suggestions for building strong relationships with your child's teacher and supporting communication between home and school.

[Building Strong Relationships with Your Child's Teacher](#) (NC Rethink Education Program)  
[How You Can Use Questions to Support Your Child's Learning](#) (NC Rethink Education Program)

	<p>Additional general parent guides and parent resource webinar recordings can be found at the <a href="#">following website</a>.</p>
<p><b>3) What services are available for parents and their children?</b></p>	<p>MICS provides paid Before and After Care for families outside of the regular school day. Information about this service can be found on our website at <a href="http://www.micharter.org">www.micharter.org</a> under the Parent Resources tab.</p> <p>MICS provides free after school tutoring to selected students throughout the school year.</p> <p>Parents can attend one of our family engagement opportunities, including PTO Meetings, where they can learn about how to support their students. Information about these events is advertised on Parent Square throughout the year.</p> <p>Additional information regarding services available to parents and children are available in the <a href="#">Parent's Bill of Rights policies</a> available on our school website.</p>
<p><b>4) What are opportunities for parents to participate with school?</b></p>	<p>MICS has a Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) with various subcommittees dedicated to providing fun and educational opportunities for students and families and to support the school through fundraising, volunteering and employee appreciation activities.</p> <p>Parents who volunteer at the school will first undergo a criminal background screening before being permitted to attend field trips, classroom activities or any other capacity in which they interact with students in a school function.</p>
<p><b>5. What are the rigorous academic programs available to my child? How can I learn more about them?</b></p>	<p>Mountain Island Charter School offers a variety of options for students to pursue their interests and skills at their academic level.</p> <p><b>Career and Technical Education (CTE):</b> NC has made a significant investment in developing students and programs to meet the</p>

needs of the future workforce. Through Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs, Public Schools offer opportunities for students to develop career awareness in 5th grade, explore careers in grades 6-8, and experience leadership, career development, and career-aligned content in grades 9-12.

In Mountain Island Charter School, students are able to explore these career pathways from grades 6-8:

Business, Finance, and Marketing Education

In Mountain Island Charter School, students are able to experience leadership, career development, and career-aligned content from grades 9-12:

Apparel and Textile Production

Business, Finance, and Marketing Education

For more information on CTE in NC, and to learn about Career Clusters, Pathways, and Course Information, Standards, and applicable Credentials please visit: [Course Management System](#).

In our district, there are the following programs available that are more rigorous and challenging than the standard content for students:

**Academically and/or Intellectually Gifted (AIG):**

In NC, school districts must identify and serve academically or intellectually gifted (AIG) K-12 students. These are students who are performing, or have the potential of performing, at high levels of accomplishment in intellectual and/or specific academic areas, such as reading and/or math when compared with other students of their age, or in their grade level, experience, or environment.

The Mountain Island Charter School Local AIG Plan outlines specific opportunities for differentiated, rigorous instruction and accelerated programs. You can find more information regarding this program [HERE](#).

The Mountain Island Charter School has developed an AIG Plan that provides a comprehensive overview of the AIG program, including how students will be identified and served across grades K-12. The AIG Plan is available under Parent Resources on our school website or by clicking [HERE](#).

In Mountain Island Charter School, students are often provided the following services:

- Differentiated curriculum and instruction with flexible student groups;
- Accelerated opportunities through subject acceleration, credit by demonstrated mastery (CDM), AP, dual enrollment courses;
- Enrichment experiences, which may be during the school day or beyond, and may be within the regular calendar year or may include summer opportunities; and
- Other opportunities for extension of content standards.

Services for AIG students may be provided by AIG personnel or within the regular classroom by teachers trained to meet the needs of gifted students.

Contact the Exceptional Children Program Coordinator at 704-827-8840 with questions or to request an evaluation for services consideration.

**Honors Level Courses:**

In Mountain Island Charter School, students have access to a variety of honors level courses in high school. These courses are available in the course catalog located on the [High School page of the MICS website](#) or by clicking [HERE](#).

Honors level courses typically have a faster pace than standard level courses. They offer additional rigor, complexity and creativity than standard level courses.

**Career and College Promise (CCP):**

Mountain Island Charter School partners with Gaston College and Central Piedmont Community College to offer dual enrollment opportunities through the CCP program. If

your high school student qualifies, students may earn high school credit by completing community college coursework.

CCP courses may be taken in the College Transfer or Career and Technical Education pathway. These courses count for both high school and college credit. Tuition is free for families.

To learn more about this program, contact your child's high school counselor. Additional information is available on the [NCDPI CCP website](#).

**Advanced Placement (AP) Courses:**

Advanced Placement (AP) is a program developed by the College Board to offer college-level curricula and examinations to high school students.

In NC, 40 Advanced Placement courses are offered in public high schools. Mountain Island Charter School typically offers 13-15 AP courses according to student needs.

Several AP courses satisfy graduation requirements for NC students as outlined in [State Board policy](#).

AP exams are free for NC public high school students enrolled in these courses.

Colleges and universities may likely offer college credit for these courses if your child scores a 3 or above on the exam. All of the colleges in the UNC System offer credit.

More information is available on the [NCDPI AP website](#).

**Accelerated Access**

**NCVPS:**

[North Carolina Virtual Public School \(NCVPS\)](#) is NC’s state supplemental program and leader in online education, providing inclusive learning opportunities for students across the state. Founded in 2007, with a strong commitment to ensuring quality education for all students, regardless of location, NCVPS has over 16 years of experience serving diverse learners.

Students may enroll in NCVPS courses for a variety of reasons. Work with your school counselor if you are interested in taking an NCVPS courses. Courses available at Mountain Island Charter School through NCVPS can be located on the [NCVPS Course Catalog](#).

**Credit by Demonstrated Mastery (CDM):**

Mountain Island Charter School offers opportunities for students to earn credit for a high school course without enrolling in the course. All high school courses, with a few exceptions as noted by the state, are available for students to try to CDM. There are two phases of assessments that a student must go through to earn credit for the course.

Contact the Assistant Principal of Curriculum and Instruction for grades 6-12 for more information.

**Governor’s School:**

Each summer, NC Governor’s School offers a unique opportunity for high-achieving rising juniors and seniors to learn with their peers from across the state in an 4-week residential program at two college campus sites.

For more information on eligibility and the application process, contact your school counselor or visit the Governor's School website, [www.ncgovschool.org](http://www.ncgovschool.org).

**6) What school choices are available for my child?**

**Charter Schools**

Charter schools are public schools of choice that are authorized by the State Board of Education and operated by independent non-profit boards of directors. State and local tax dollars are the primary funding sources for charter schools, which have open enrollment and cannot discriminate in admissions, associate with any religion or religious group, or charge-tuition. Charter schools operate with freedom from many of the regulations that govern district schools, but charter schools are held accountable through the State assessment and accountability system.

If you are interested in NC charter schools, visit [NC charter school](#) for information, resources, and contacts.

**Nonpublic Education and Scholarship Grants**

Nonpublic education is overseen by the [NC Department of Administration](#).

For a list of private schools, visit this [NC Private Schools](#).

For information on how to start a homeschool visit:

[Homeschool Information](#)

Scholarship grant programs/voucher information is available via the [NC State Education Assistance Authority](#)

Students in public school districts are assigned to certain schools based on a local assignment plan approved by their Local Board of education. Students/families in the area surrounding Mountain Island Charter School are eligible for district school options, which include both traditional and magnet schools, according to the location of their residence:

[Cabarrus County Schools](#)

[Catawba County Schools](#)

[Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools](#)



	<p> <a href="#">Gaston County Schools</a>  <a href="#">Cleveland County Schools</a>  <a href="#">Lincoln County Schools</a>  <a href="#"> Mooresville Graded School District</a>  <a href="#">Iredell-Statesville Schools</a>  <a href="#">Kannapolis City Schools</a> </p>
<p><b>7) What rights do students with disabilities have based on the law?</b></p>	<p>For students suspected of or identified with a disability by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), the following links provide important information regarding the procedural safeguards available to ensure a free, appropriate, public education.</p> <p> <a href="#">Exceptional Children Programs/Rights of Students With Disabilities</a>  <a href="#">Parents Rights and Responsibilities in Special Education: Notice of Procedural Safeguards</a>  <a href="#">Parent Rights Handbook (Spanish)</a> </p> <p>The Exceptional Children Division of North Carolina Department of Public Instruction is looking for all children and youth ages birth through 21 with special needs who may not be receiving the help needed. These include children and youth with physical disabilities, emotional disabilities and/or intellectual disabilities, and children and youth with suspected disabilities who are highly mobile, migrant and/or homeless.</p> <p>If your child has a disability, or you suspect that he/she may have a disability please contact <a href="mailto:ascott@micharter.org">ascott@micharter.org</a>.</p>