

SAMPLE: PARENT LETTER —School Performance Grades of D or F
Low Performing School

*J.E. Holmes Middle School
211 N. Pierce Street
Eden, NC 27288*

November 1, 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian,

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 J.E. Holmes Middle School, our achievement score for the 2022-2023 school year is based on how well our students performed on Grades 6–8 Mathematics and Grades 6–8 English Language Arts/Reading. The purpose of this letter is to inform you that J.E. Holmes Middle School, has been designated as a low performing school by the North Carolina State Board of Education. 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.”

J.E. Holmes Middle School, received a School Performance Grade of *D* and a growth designation of *Did Not Meet* for the 2022–2023 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. *J.E. Holmes is extremely proud of our focus on our school motto of Honorable, Motivated, and Successful. We have re-launched PBIS including defining what this means for our students. We have one of the first CTE career exploration classes. We have students involved in athletics. We have high function clubs such as: Student Leadership, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Drama Club, Yearbook Club, and VEX Robotics with more to come!*

As a low performing school, we are required to develop an improvement plan that specifically addresses how the school will improve both the school performance grade and school growth score. The plan will also include how the superintendent and other central office administrators in the district will work with us and monitor the progress of our school. We are already engaged in the work of refining our plan and will present the plan to our school board at their next meeting, October 9, 2023, where the plan will be presented for approval. The final plan will be available for review: <https://www.holmesmiddleschool.org/>

One of our top priorities for 2023–2024 is to improve our School Performance Grade. There are a number of key programs we have in place to help improve student performance. These include:

To grow reading and math score towards proficiency and close sub group gaps we will:

- Use IE time for targeted intervention and enrichment needs of each student
- Small Group Instruction will be used in all classrooms to differentiate instruction
- Teacher Content Reading PD
- Utilize research-based programs (iReady, Achieve300) to fill in gaps of students understanding

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To promote parent engagement we will:

- Communicate via ClassTag, Alert Now calls, and Holmes FaceBook page regularly and clearly for families to receive updates.
- Work closely with our PTSO partners
- Complete parent nights, such as the September Academic night, where we will share interim reports, have teachers available to set up conferences, and teach parents how to utilize the Canvas app.

To cultivate a safe and supportive school we will:

- Complete Crisis Team Meetings
- Complete all school safety drills
- Complete the Public School Works Training Modules

We hope you will closely follow your student’s academic progress and work with his or her teacher(s) to help ensure they stay on track academically. Working together as a team, we can improve not only how well our students are performing individually, but how our school is performing as a whole. There is nothing more important to administrators and teachers at J.E. Holmes Middle School, then ensuring students are ready for the next step in their academic careers. I look forward to working with you to make sure your student is on track for success.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding our School Performance Grade and how we plan to improve, please don’t hesitate to contact Dr. Bailey at cbailey@rock.k12.nc.us.

Sincerely,

Dr. Christy Ann Bailey

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