

Holmes Middle School

211 N. Pierce Street

Eden, NC, 27288

11/4/2022

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 Holmes Middle School our achievement score for the 2021-2022 school year is based on how well our students performed on a variety of tests such as *(Grades 6–8 Mathematics, Grades 6–8 English Language Arts/Reading, Grade 8 Science, NC Math 1.)*

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that 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."

Holmes Middle School received a School Performance Grade of **D** and a growth designation of **Met Growth** 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. This year, 43% of the schools in North Carolina were designated as low performing. Covid impacted our education system in many negative ways and we are working diligently to address these issues and ensure students receive an engaging and rigorous education. As a former Mustang, I know Holmes has a rich history of providing our students with a great education and other opportunities such as participation in sports and clubs. I am thankful for the support the community shows Holmes Middle School each and every day.

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, *(11/14/2022 at 6 pm at the Rockingham County Schools Central Office)* 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 2022–2023 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:

- Utilize our Intervention/Enrichment time in our schedule to provide students with opportunities for support with the curriculum or extension activities using all members of the staff to support students' individual academic needs.
- Following established standard treatment protocols in our Multi-Tiered Systems of Support, we will ensure students receive support in a myriad of areas that impact their educational success.
- Implementing small group instruction as a means to work with students on an individual basis and discuss their academic progress.
- Use available data to target and address specific learning needs across the building.
- Implementing Wellness Wednesdays as a day to incorporate and focus on Social-Emotional aspects of learning.
- Monitoring and implementing our School Improvement Plan with fidelity.

- Engaging our school community through various forms of communication and parent night events.

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 Holmes Middle School than 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 Holmes Middle School at 336-623-9791.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Nicholas H. Zigla". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "N" and a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.