

January 10, 2019

Dear Parent/Guardian, One of the benefits North Carolina public schools offer parents is transparency. Public school accountability is a standard practice for North Carolina going back to the early 1990s, and the North Carolina School Report Cards provide parents with information on such key issues as student performance, teacher experience, and school safety. Data are provided at the school, district, and state levels to enable parents to compare the performance of their student's schools with others across the district and state.

Legislation (G.S. §115C-83.15) passed during the 2013 long session of the North Carolina General Assembly provides 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 Thomas Academy, our achievement score for the 2016–17 school years is based on how well our students' performed on: Grades 6–8 Mathematics, Grades 6–8 English Language Arts/Reading, Grade 8 Science, Math I, English II, and Biology.

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that Thomas Academy received a School Performance Grade of "D" for the 2017–18 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 such as a family atmosphere, small classroom size, small successes for students that have never met state proficiency standards, NCVPS courses with added rigor for students, as well as a dual enrollment agreement where our students in 11th and 12th grade are able to attend Southeaster Community College.

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 Thomas Academy than ensuring that students are ready for the next step in their academic career. 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 me.

Sincerely,

Geraldine Bradshaw, Director