



November 30, 2022

Dear Rocky Mount Prep Families,

I first want to thank you for a strong start to the school year. We are elated to have our scholars back on campus. We are impressed at how they are rising to the occasion of the expectations. We are in for an outstanding school year. Your partnership and support in our mission to “educate, equip, and empower each scholar to excel,” is invaluable.

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 Rocky Mount Preparatory School, our achievement score for the 2021-2022 school year is based on how well our students performed on Grades 3–8 Mathematics, Grades 3–8 English Language Arts/Reading, Grades 5 and 8 Science, NC Math 1, NC Math 3, English II, and Biology, and additional indicators including English Learner Progress, ACT, and the 4-Year Cohort Graduation Rate.

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that Rocky Mount Preparatory 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.” Rocky Mount Preparatory School received a School Performance Grade of “F” for the 2021–2022 school year.

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. In spite of our overall school performance grade, we experienced many academic successes over the course of the 2021-2022 school year. We are excited to share with you our progress in recovering lost instructional time.

We know the pandemic modified the way we delivered instruction, the way we operated as schools, and the time and opportunity available to provide instruction. The pandemic presented staffing challenges, as team members had to make difficult life choices and navigate living in a pandemic along with personal challenges. We know the challenges with technology and internet access as what seems like the entire world moved to living life and teaching virtually for nearly an entire year, and then on and off, as circumstances required. The 2020-2021 school year was the first set of tests since the beginning of the pandemic and although we were required to test that year, we were not provided a School Performance Grade (SPG) or Growth Score, only proficiency scores.

Rocky Mount Prep entered the pandemic undergoing a necessary restructure to retool the school academically and culturally; to provide our community, a new Rocky Mount Prep, better positioned to ensure scholars’ immediate and future success. Through all the challenges, we held steady in pursuing the goals of our restructuring with staffing, academic, and cultural outcomes. We acknowledge that the struggles of the past two and a half years had an impact. Scores and growth dropped for schools across the state for the 2020-2021 school year. While we continue to work to recover, like many schools across the state, our School Performance Grade (SPG) dropped. While the SPG is disappointing, we are not discouraged.

Our improvements from last school year are a testament to the resiliency of our scholars, our team, and you, our families that support us.

**We celebrate improvements in the following areas:**

- Grade Level Proficiency
- EOG Reading Proficiency
- EOG Math Proficiency
- EOG Science Proficiency
- EOC (High School) Proficiency
- Graduation Rate
- Meeting Growth in Reading
- Math Growth Score

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 includes how the superintendent and other central office administrators in the district will work with us and monitor the progress of our school.

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:

- Daily academic interventions for grades K-12 with the support of highly qualified tutors.
- New Math Curriculum, Grades K-8, with instructional coaching for teachers, Grades K-12, and a Math Curriculum Facilitator to support Interventions and daily instruction.
- Multiple tutoring options throughout the day and afterschool that are available free to scholars.
- Comprehensive ACT Preparation, through Mastery Prep, for 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grade scholars built into their weekly schedule.
- Implementation of Academic Advisory for scholars, Grades 6-12, to own and track their academic progress and develop academic improvement plans with their academic coach.
- Instructional leaders at Grades K-2, 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12 to provide focused attention on the implementation of the instructional program.
- Increased access to highly qualified teachers, in-person and virtually, as needed.
- Implementation of MTSS, a comprehensive data driven, support model providing individualized and small group instruction as needed.

Our grade reflects the impacts of the pandemic. Our successes are testament to the challenging work of our community, our commitment to our scholars, and a steady journey to improved outcomes. We realize you may have questions as a result of our outcomes. I welcome you to reach out to myself, [cgarrett@rmprep.org](mailto:cgarrett@rmprep.org), or your Directors of Instruction with any questions you may have about our instructional program.

Director, Grades K-2, Susan Sharpe, [susan.sharpe@rmprep.org](mailto:susan.sharpe@rmprep.org)

Director, Grades 3-5, Amanda Atwell, [amanda.atwell@rmprep.org](mailto:amanda.atwell@rmprep.org)

Director, Grades 6-8, Kenya Grant, [kenya.grant@rmprep.org](mailto:kenya.grant@rmprep.org)

Director, Grades 9-12, Dr. Jeaninne Wallace, [jeanine.wallace@rmprep.org](mailto:jeanine.wallace@rmprep.org)

In support of our continued improvement process, we ask for your support via the following:

- Ensure scholars arrive to school on time and stress the importance of attending class on time.
- Ensure scholars are completing their assignments on time and in alignment with the curriculum expectations.
- Remain connected with your scholars' teachers via Class Dojo, Remind, and via email.
- Ensure scholars are utilizing digital tools and support resources at home.

Team Rocky Mount Prep is up to the challenge of continuing to improve throughout the pandemic. We appreciate your support and your partnership on this journey.

Respectfully,

Dr. Chaunte Garrett