



September 21, 2022

Greetings Cardinal Parents,

North Carolina released statewide school performance data for the 2021-22 school year based on proficiency and growth results – the first time using this metric in two years. Since the 2013-14 school year, North Carolina public schools, including charters, have received an A-F letter grade that reflects school performance measured primarily by student performance on the state’s End of Grade (EOG) in grades 3-8.

Under state law, grades are based on each school’s achievement score (weight of 80%) and each school’s students’ academic growth (weight of 20%). As this was our first testing year, combined with the interruptions to instruction due to COVID outages, many of our students were unable to achieve at the level that you and we want and expect of them. 20% of the score is based on growth as determined by an NCDPI algorithm which projects how much a student should grow academically based on previous performance on state tests.

As anticipated, the impact the pandemic had on student performance is something that every school is challenged to address now and in the years ahead. At CCA, we are not only up for that challenge, but also committed to our students’ academic excellence and emotional wellbeing.

In addition to proficiency, growth calculations are included in the overall score a school receives. Growth is a measure of how cohorts of students performed based on prior years’ results. For the 2021-22 school year (as compared to 2019 pre-pandemic data which is non-existent for our school due to our recent opening), our growth data shows that many of our student cohorts exceeded their expected growth, but some did not. As a result, our overall combined score that we received is a “D.”

In the days ahead we will be diving deeper into the results so that together, with our amazing staff, we can refine our plans that ensure our students excel both academically and emotionally. I am humbled by the response that our teachers have already shown in embracing this challenge, and looking within each of their roles to help CCA reach our target for this year.

You may be aware of the considerable pushback among constituent schools within the state regarding this narrow measure of schools, especially considering the pandemic and its effect on student learning. However, while they sort that out in Raleigh, we are committed to showing that CCA is the phenomenal school and community we all know it is, regardless of these narrow metrics.

If you feel inclined to have your/our voices heard, Superintendent Truitt has opened a survey for stakeholder insight- (found [here](https://www.ednc.org/school-performance-grade-survey/) -https://www.ednc.org/school-performance-grade-survey/). I ask each of you to join us in this movement to ensure that each student receives the most engaging and rigorous education possible, as they set foot into CCA each day.. This, combined with the amazing culture that we have all already embraced, will continue to make us shine for years to come.

Chirp On Cardinals!

Maria Mills, Director

Carolina Charter Academy Board of Directors