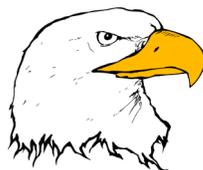


# Research Triangle Charter Academy

September 2019



## RTCA Outperforms Area Schools, Raises Report Card Score Behind Strong 2018-2019 Student Test Gains

### BOASTS STRONGER PERFORMANCE THAN AREA DPS SCHOOLS

Research Triangle Charter Academy enjoyed a better year than many of the Durham area urban charter and DPS elementary and middle schools, and the data is in to prove it.

The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction recently released state test performance for the 2018-2019 school year, along with school report card grades. RTCA saw an 8 point jump in its score—thereby raising its score to a 62 and earning a state letter grade of “C”. RTCA outperformed area charters schools such as IDYL, Healthy Start, and KIPP Durham. It also outperformed Durham Schools such as Bethesda, East Way, Lowe’s Grove, Neal Middle School and Merrick-Moore Elementary.

“This past year, we put sincere and intentional effort into improving last year’s performance and raising our score and letter grade,” says Principal Wayne Muhammad. “Our focus has been on improving the quality of instruction in the core classroom and addressing any deficits and gaps students may have. Through frequent and meaningful assessments, we were able to better prepare our students for the EOG assessments and consequently help them achieve higher scores.” Principal Muhammad added, “I think seeing such an increase in both growth and proficiency, and to achieve our 10-year charter renewal this year as well, stand as a testament to the good work we are doing and that we are a quality choice for parents seeking a good education for their children.”

According to the principal, the next goal is to raise the letter grade to a “B” which he deems absolutely possible if the school makes the same amount of academic growth it made this past year on next year’s state assessments. Information on all NC schools’ academic performance can be accessed on the NCDPI website.

### STUDENT CREED

#### We are Research Triangle Students.

- We strive to achieve academic excellence.
- We exemplify high moral character.
- We strive to realize our potential.
- We work diligently to prepare for the future.

### ADMIN TEAM TO SERVE YOU

- Wayne Muhammad, Principal
- Erin Huckel, Dean of K-2/  
Specials
- Wintre Shaw, Dean of 3-5/EC
- Jamila Bowser, Dean of 6-8/  
Title I Intervention
- Jacquetta Williams, Social  
Worker



## ***Fall Sports Off to Strong Start in New Conference***

The **RTCA Lady Eagles Volleyball team** is dominating play in the brand new Triangle NHA Athletic Conference. Under the leadership of head coach Jameka Parker and assistant coach Yulnique Johnson, the team is off to a fiery 5-1, 2-0 in the conference start. The team's dominant play has been led by 7th Graders Takia Lassiter and Laylonie Johnson.

The **RTCA Cross Country team** has attended two meets thus far this season. Under the leadership of coach Vara Powell and assistant coach Marlon Reynolds, the team has produced two members— Kamyryn Riley and Jalin Harris—who have consistently finished in the top 10 at each meet.

The Boys Soccer team under new coach Dustin Bunch has gotten off to a good start. Despite losing its first match 0-1, the team showed much promise— particularly behind the outstanding play of Angel Vazquez and Anua Bonilla.

The next Soccer match is Tuesday against Peak Academy. Volleyball competes Tuesday against Johnston Academy. The next Cross Country meet is October 3rd at Peak Academy.

## **Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration**

**Tuesday, October 15  
6:00-8:00pm**

**Come enjoy the food,  
fun, dancing and  
games!**

**If you would like to  
help out with decora-  
tions, food, etc. please  
email Dean of K-2**

**Erin Huckel @  
40.ehuckel**

**@nhaschools.com**

During National Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15 to October 15) we recognize the contributions made and the important presence of Hispanic and Latino Americans to the United States and celebrate their heritage and culture. Hispanics have had a profound and positive influence on our country through their strong commitment to family, faith, hard work, and service. They have enhanced and shaped our national character with centuries-old traditions that reflect the multi-ethnic and multicultural customs of their community.

Hispanic Heritage Month, whose roots go back to 1968, begins each year on September 15, the anniversary of independence of five Latin American countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. Mexico, Chile and Belize also celebrate their independence days during this period and Columbus Day (Día de la Raza) is October 12.

The term Hispanic or Latino, refers to Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin regardless of race. On the 2010 Census form, people of Spanish, Hispanic and/or Latino origin could identify themselves as Mexican, Mexican American, Chicano, Puerto Rican, Cuban, or "another Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin."

Today, 57.5 million people or 18% of the American population are of Hispanic or Latino origin. This represents a significant increase from 2000, which registered the Hispanic population at 35.3 million or 13% of the total U.S. population.

Share in this special annual tribute by learning and celebrating the generations of Hispanic and Latino Americans who have positively influenced and enriched our nation and society.



**Mrs. Nikki Cole and Mrs. Earlene Sloan were recognized for their parent partnership with RTCA.**

## **RTCA RECOGNIZES PARENTS FOR ASSISTANCE**

One of the pillars of Research Triangle Charter Academy and all National Heritage Academies schools is parent partnership. Over the years, we have always been fortunate to have strong parent involvement and assistance. No one, though, exhibited that spirit of parent partnership this past school year more than parent Mrs. Nikki Cole and grandparent Mrs. Earlene Sloan.

Both ladies were recently recognized and given plaques of appreciation at RTCA's annual Grandparents Day Breakfast. Highlighted in the presentation by administrators, was their selfless service and sacrifice to the school—particularly to keep our students safe. Mrs. Sloan assists with Driveline dismissal almost every afternoon, faithfully moving cones, directing cars to pull up, and escorting children to their cars. Mrs. Cole does the same, while also serving as morning traffic director—helping cars exit safely out of the school campus onto Ellis Rd.

“These ladies love RTCA,” said Principal Muhammad. “And we love them, right back. What they do on a daily basis, they don't have to do it. So I'm so appreciative of their commitment to our school and for being such strong and positive ambassadors for our school. I encourage more parents to become as active and involved as they are. Parent involvement such as that makes us so much stronger as a school.”

Parents looking to volunteer can simply fill out a volunteer form on the school's webpage or contact the office.

## **TITLE I NIGHT TO BE HELD OCT 7 TO HELP PARENTS SUPPORT THEIR STUDENTS**

RTCA will host its annual Title I Night Monday, October 7 at 6:00pm.

The first portion of the night will consist of a presentation by the Title I Team informing parents our Title I Program and what to expect. Dean of Intervention Wintre Shaw will discuss what it means if your child is in the Title I intervention program and how YOU can best support them at home.

The second portion will last about 50 minutes and is run by each grade level. Please sign the roster as you enter your child's teacher's room.

Title I is a federally funded program for schools designed to provide personnel, resources, and materials to help struggling students close academic gaps through small-group and one-on-one intervention.