

Dear Families,

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. Since 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 Island Montessori School, our achievement score for the 2023–2024 school year reflects how well our students performed on Grades 3–8 Mathematics, Grades 3–8 English Language Arts/Reading, and Grades 5 and 8 Science.

I am writing to inform you that Island Montessori has been designated as a low-performing school by the North Carolina State Board of Education. According to 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."

For the 2023–2024 school year, Island Montessori received a School Performance Grade of D and a growth designation of Not Met. While this designation requires our attention, it is important to emphasize that one letter grade does not tell the full story of a school, just as a single test score does not define the abilities or potential of a student. Our mission at Island Montessori is to nurture the growth and development of the whole child, focusing not only on academic outcomes but also on social, emotional, and physical development—elements that cannot be fully captured through standardized testing. We view this current challenge as a small step back—an opportunity to pause, reflect, and grow—before making large leaps forward in our journey toward excellence.

As part of this process, we are required to develop an improvement plan that will address both our school's performance grade and growth score. The plan will outline specific strategies for improvement and detail how the administration and Board of Directors will work together to support and monitor our progress. We are actively engaged in refining our plan, which will be presented to the school board for approval at their next meeting on November 20, 2024, at 7:00 PM. A draft of the plan will be available for review [here](#). We value and welcome your feedback and insights on this plan. Please share your thoughts through this [Google Form](#). Together, we can strengthen not only the academic performance of each student but also the sense of community and purpose that defines Island Montessori.

The success of our students is at the heart of everything we do, and we remain committed to ensuring they are well-prepared for the next step in their academic and personal journeys. With your partnership, we are confident that this is only the beginning of a new path forward.

If you have any questions or concerns about our School Performance Grade or improvement plan, please don't hesitate to reach out to me directly.

In Peace,

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Head of School

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