

September 25, 2025

Dear UCA Eagle Families,

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that Uwharrie Charter Virtual Academy has earned an overall school performance grade of “F” on the 2024–2025 state report card. Under G.S. 115C-218.65, charter schools are required to provide written notice of the grade to the parents and guardians of all enrolled students.

While we acknowledge this result, it is important to recognize that a single letter grade does not fully reflect the strengths, opportunities, and rich educational experiences provided at UCA. These assessments also do not capture the dedication of our amazing teachers and administrators or the hard work and growth of our students throughout the year.

The 2024–2025 school year was the first year of operation for Uwharrie Charter Virtual Academy. As a result, in many areas there was not enough data to demonstrate measurable growth in certain categories. Beyond test scores, UCA continues to take pride in its focus on STEAM, project-based, and problem-based learning, as well as the success of our student internships and college-and-career readiness programs. These opportunities prepare our students for life beyond the classroom in ways that a single grade cannot measure.

Looking ahead, we are committed to developing and implementing an improvement plan with clear goals and actionable steps to strengthen student learning and performance. Our top priority this year is to improve our School Performance Grade. To accomplish this, we are introducing targeted initiatives at every level. This year, we have also added additional support across all grade levels, and in grades 7–8, students now have access to North Carolina Virtual Public School (NCVPS) courses that provide more rigorous academic opportunities.

Middle School: To strengthen the transition into high school, we are adding another teacher facilitator who will focus specifically on supporting 8th and 9th grade students. We are expanding staff support for our EC students based on enrollment to ensure their needs are met. To increase academic rigor, 7th and 8th graders will take NCVPS courses in English and Math. Families will also notice that confirmation letters now include clearer expectations to help provide consistency and set students up for success. In addition, struggling students will be identified earlier, and families will be contacted quickly so we can work together on support strategies. Middle school students will now receive a grade for their participation in daily meetings to reinforce the importance of engagement and active learning.

High School: Our focus for high school is on providing students with the right balance of support and independence. A dedicated facilitator will now work with 8th and 9th graders, helping 9th graders adjust to the expectations of high school. Families received confirmation letters earlier this year that outlined updated expectations, setting a clear standard for student responsibility and engagement. To better serve students who may face academic challenges, we will be reaching out sooner to make a plan for success. Part of that plan will be to have students who are struggling with work completion return to work on campus until they receive passing grades. These initiatives are designed to give students the tools, guidance, and opportunities they need to be successful in high school and beyond.

We encourage you to monitor your student's academic progress closely and partner with their teachers to keep them on track. By working together as a united team—families, staff, and students—we can achieve remarkable growth and success.

If you have any questions about the School Performance Grade or our improvement plan, please do not hesitate to reach out to your child's school or to me directly at sharon_castelli@uwharriecharter.org.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership as we strive for excellence at Uwharrie Charter Academy. We are confident that with the resilience of our students, the dedication of our teachers, and the commitment of our families, this year will bring meaningful growth and success.

Sincerely,



Dr. Sharon Castelli, Superintendent
Uwharrie Charter Academy