

November 8, 2018

Dear Herndon Family,

Herndon has maintained the status of an A school for many years. Although our scores have remained statistically steady, the state has changed the way schools are graded. The new formula makes it harder for schools to receive an 'A' or to maintain an 'A'. Due to the shift in the formula, Herndon will not receive the grade of an 'A' for 2018. Under the old formula, Herndon actually grew from 107, an 'A,' to a 107.1, an 'A'. However, under the new formula, Herndon's score is an 89.1 'B'. The current range for an 'A' begins with 90.

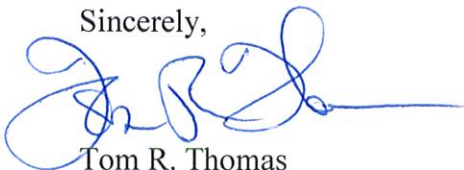
Our students excelled in several areas. For example, the assessment index grew from a projected score of 84 to an 86.3. The assessment index measures student mastery of the knowledge and skills reflected in the standards for grades 3 through 8 in ELA, math, science and social studies. Also, the students that leave Herndon after 8th grade continue to have academic success during their 9th grade year as indicated by the DCAI* which increased from a projected 144.7 to a 147.3. This score has always been an 'A' and will continue to be an 'A' for Herndon because we strongly prepare our middle school students for academic success in high school. Additionally, Herndon will be recognized as an "Equity Honoree" for being in the 91st percentile for scores of its economically disadvantaged students. Over a third of Herndon's students are considered economically disadvantaged by the state.

The above highlights speak to the positive culture and climate of Herndon Magnet School. Herndon is much more than a score because we strive to develop the whole child. We provide, and we will continue to provide, a safe and healthy environment "that encourages every student to develop to his or her fullest potential...intellectually, emotionally, physically, and socially."

Herndon has always had the most supportive parents, guardians, and grandparents, and when we have asked for your help, you have always gone above and beyond the call of duty. On behalf of the faculty and staff, let me say that we are very appreciative of this kind of backing. No doubt, you see how serious testing is today in Louisiana. For your student to be successful on state tests, daily attendance is crucial. Make up work does not take the place of high quality instruction or class discussion. We need your student here every day unless they are truly ill. This is true for kindergarten as well. In kindergarten students are receiving the foundational skills needed to be successful in the next grades. Each grade builds on the previous one and each is increasingly more difficult in order for students to demonstrate mastery of content and be college and career ready.

As a staff, we are committed to doing everything within our power to regain our 'A' grade. We will continue to provide a loving and nurturing environment that provides numerous opportunities for studies to achieve academically and with extracurricular activities such as art, cheer, clubs, dance, music, and sports. We know that with your help and support, Herndon's 2019 School Performance Score will reflect the hard work, dedication, and excellence of its students, parents, and the faculty and staff of Herndon Magnet School.

Sincerely,



Tom R. Thomas
Principal

* DCAI – Dropout Credit Accumulation Index