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Dear Families:

Once a year the state of North Carolina provides you with updates on your school's achievements through the North Carolina School Report Card – which includes important information about school and student performance, class sizes, attendance, school safety, instructional resources, and teacher quality. There also is information about how our school measured against federal Annual Measurable Objectives (AMO) targets in our school.

This is the fourth year the N.C. General Assembly is requiring that schools receive individual letter grades, which are comprised of student achievement (80 percent) and growth (20 percent) on state standardized assessments.

In 2016-2017, Apple Valley Middle met expected growth in 6th-8th grade Math, but did not meet overall growth expectations and received a “C” on the N.C. School Report Card. We are currently looking at our school wide data and establishing a clear vision and mission to help us excel in growth, as we have in past years.

That said, the numbers only tell part of our story. At Apple Valley, we have an outstanding arts program including chorus, band, strings, and visual arts. Participating students have been recognized at local and state levels for their accomplishments. Our students also participate in and win local, state and national awards for their achievements in academic contests such as the annual Daughters of the American Revolution Essay, Quiz Bowl, national MATHCOUNTS competitions, Carl Sandburg National Poetry Contest, and Battle of the Books.

Programs like the pre-engineering program “Project Lead the Way” in our Career and Technical Education courses, and a very successful Spanish program providing our students with an additional opportunity to gain high school credits in Spanish I, set us apart from other middle schools.

We are proud to be recognized as a “Schools to Watch” by the N.C. Association for Middle Level Education and a “Green Ribbon School” by the N.C. Positive Behavior Intervention & Support (PBIS) Initiative. Teachers and administrators from around the state and nation visit schools with these designations to learn best practices and strategies to improve instruction. Thirty percent of our highly qualified teachers have advanced degrees, and 12 are National Board Certified (an optional intensive certification process with high standards for educators).

As we move forward, Apple Valley Middle's focus for improvement is on continued academic growth and success. We have incorporated intervention and tutoring programs to boost student performance in all academic areas, and have scheduled specific times during the school day to work with at-risk students and provide enrichment activities. Parent involvement is a vital part of student success, and we value your support and invite you to become an active participant in your child's education.

Thank you for your investment in your child's school, and for supporting our efforts to provide your child with a high-quality education.

Sincerely,

Peggy Marshall, Principal