

January 6, 2012

Dear Charlotte Preparatory School Families,

It's been lovely to see our students bounce back into school this week! Despite wake-up routines that doubtlessly required more effort, by the time they reached us, the children were full of energy, anecdotes and delight in being together again.

As you know, our goal is to nurture our students with rich programs that bring out the very best in their academic, character and leadership development. On campus, we delight in seeing the results of our work every day in the classroom, on the playground and on the athletic field. We are fortunate that several times each year there are tangible results that can be empirically documented. An example is the exciting news about our seventh graders that I shared with you before the holidays: 92 percent of Charlotte Prep's seventh grade class qualified for the Duke Talent Identification Program!

I write to you today with more such good news. It is the information that I shared with the faculty during our professional development time this past Monday. Enclosed please find a series of graphs that demonstrate the marked gains our students make throughout their Middle School experience at Charlotte Preparatory School, as measured by their ERB scores. They demonstrate how each year, our students consistently make measurable gains in their grade-level testing during a developmental period where children typically experience academic declines. This is particularly significant when we consider that Columbia University released a study last year which determined:

"Using panel data and instrumental variables, we estimate that students' academic achievement falls by about 0.15 standard deviations in math and English when they move from elementary schools to middle schools ... Moreover, the effects of movement to middle school persist through grade 8 ..."

We know that our preK-8 model, small class sizes, dedicated teachers, and outstanding curriculum give our students the very best education possible, and we are pleased to be able to offer you tangible proof that the investment you make in your child's education each year pays concrete results.

With that in mind, I'd like to remind you that our re-enrollment period for next school year takes place in a few short weeks. Charlotte Prep's tuition costs for the 2012-2013 school year have been calculated, and I'm happy to inform you that we have been able to limit our first tuition increase in two years to only two percent. Please look for a full packet of information about re-enrollment next month.

If you have questions about the information enclosed, please feel free to contact me, or your division head, at any time. We will be happy to discuss it with you.

Warm regards,

Annmarie Torres
Head of School