



Friday, January 26, 2018

Parents/Guardians of Eastover-Central Elementary School of Arts students,

Earlier in the school year, we were informed by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) that our school was on a short list as a potential state nominee for the 2018 National Blue Ribbon Exemplary High Performing School award.

The National Blue Ribbon award has been bestowed to selected schools in our nation since 1982 for excellence in education. The particular award for which we were being considered for, the National Blue Ribbon Exemplary High Performing award, must have its recipients demonstrate their school has the highest achieving students, more specifically, the top 15%, as measured by state assessments.

I am thrilled to share with you that on Monday, January 22, we were informed that Eastover-Central is a state nominee and is now a national finalist for the 2018 National Blue Ribbon Exemplary High Performing School award.

In gaining this accolade, we are one of 9 schools in North Carolina from nearly 2,600 public schools and one of 421 schools in the United States from over 98,000 public schools to be awarded this distinguished and prestigious honor. In other words, less than 1% of all schools in our state and nation are recognized as such.

Additionally, no other school within the Cumberland County School (CCS) district has ever been recognized as a National Blue Ribbon Exemplary High Performing School which further emphasizes the importance of this announcement.

I, and our entire staff and faculty, look forward to the process of competing as a national finalist for the National Blue Ribbon Exemplary High Performing School award which will culminate in September 2018 when the Department of Education announces the recipients.

On behalf of our school family, I personally thank you and your family for your constant support which has been invaluable in our past and current success, and we look forward to continuing to closely work with all of our stakeholders as we make Eastover-Central the very best school it can be for all of our students as well as one of the very best in our state and nation.

Sincerely,

Ashley Porter
Principal

EASTOVER-CENTRAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL OF ARTS

Ashley P. Porter, *Principal*

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