



MARJORIE WILLIAMS ACADEMY

129 Allen Circle | Newland, NC 28657

P: 828.733.5241 F: 828.737.7915

www.williamsacademy.org

PARENT'S GUIDE TO STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT (PGSA)

Marjorie Williams Academy

2026–2027 School Year

Based on North Carolina's Parents' Bill of Rights

It is the goal of Marjorie Williams Academy to provide parents and guardians with access to information regarding student achievement through the Academy's Parent's Guide to Student Achievement (PGSA). Parents and guardians who wish to obtain a paper copy of this document or its contents may make a request through Marjorie Williams Academy.

1a) How can my child be promoted to the next grade level?

North Carolina establishes statewide requirements related to student promotion, retention, reading proficiency, assessment, and high school graduation.

Marjorie Williams Academy follows state requirements as well as local promotion, accountability, and graduation procedures.

State Resources:

North Carolina Grade Level Promotion and Read to Achieve

NCDPI provides information regarding grade-level promotion, retention, reading proficiency, and alternatives for demonstrating reading proficiency.

North Carolina High School Graduation Requirements

NCDPI provides current information regarding minimum state graduation requirements, required courses, credits, and requirements applicable to individual graduating cohorts.

Marjorie Williams Academy's local promotion, accountability, and graduation requirements are available through the Academy.

1b) What is my child learning at school? How can a parent review these materials?

All North Carolina public schools use the North Carolina Standard Course of Study, as adopted by the State Board of Education. These standards identify the knowledge and skills students should understand and demonstrate by the end of each grade level or course.

Standards are available for areas including English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Arts Education, Career and Technical Education, Computer Science, English Language Development, Healthful Living, Student Success Standards, Information and Technology, and World Languages.

Local public school units, schools, and teachers determine how these standards are taught, including curriculum, instructional resources, supplementary materials, and books.

Parents and guardians may request to inspect and review textbooks, instructional materials, and supplementary instructional materials used in their child's classroom in accordance with Marjorie Williams Academy policy. Parents may contact the Academy at 828-733-5241 to request access to instructional materials or additional information regarding their child's course of study. Marjorie Williams Academy Curriculum and Instructional Resources

Marjorie Williams Academy currently utilizes instructional resources that include:

- Letterland – K–3
- Envision – Mathematics
- Wonders – ELA
- CLUE – ELA
- Open Up – Middle Grades Mathematics
- Fusion – Middle Grades ELA
- Wilson Reading – K–8 ELA intervention/support
- 6 Minute Solution – K–8 ELA fluency support
- Glencoe – Social Studies
- Holt Science and Technology
- Pearson – High School ELA

Health Education

Marjorie Williams Academy is committed to a sound school health program that provides students with accurate information and encourages students to make responsible decisions regarding their health and behavior.

The Academy recognizes the primary role of parents and guardians in providing for the health and well-being of their children and seeks to involve families in the educational process.

The school health education program meets applicable state and federal requirements and aligns with the North Carolina Standard Course of Study adopted by the State Board of Education. Curriculum materials are available for parent/guardian review at Marjorie Williams Academy.

Parents and guardians will receive appropriate notification before reproductive health and safety instruction. Parents/guardians have the right to opt their child out of this instruction in accordance with applicable requirements. Requests should be made in writing to the principal and teacher. Alternate and comparable assignments will be provided.

1c) How will a parent learn about my child's progress in school or with a class?

Marjorie Williams Academy communicates student progress to parents and guardians in a variety of ways.

Weekly At-Risk Reports and report cards issued every nine weeks are used to communicate student academic strengths and areas for improvement. Feedback regarding student conduct is also provided.

Students in grades K–8 receive Standards-Based Report Cards. Standards-Based Report Cards provide feedback regarding individual student progress toward proficiency on standards aligned with the North Carolina Standard Course of Study. Hard-copy report cards are provided each quarter.

Students in grades 9–12 receive traditional report cards using the Academy’s grading scale.

Parents and guardians have access to student information through the North Carolina Student Information System (NC SIS), powered by Infinite Campus. Families needing assistance establishing or accessing their parent portal account should contact Marjorie Williams Academy at 828-733-5241.

Transcripts

The North Carolina transcript contains grades from high school courses, weighted and unweighted Grade Point Average (GPA), standardized assessment information, and required student information.

Students may request an unofficial transcript at any time. Marjorie Williams Academy provides seniors with official transcripts for college applications, programs, scholarships, mid-year reporting, final graduation reporting, and award or scholarship requests in accordance with Academy procedures.

State Assessments

North Carolina students participate in required statewide assessments.

Students take End-of-Grade assessments in reading and mathematics in grades 3–8 and science assessments in the state-designated grades.

High school students take required End-of-Course assessments in state-designated courses.

Students in Grade 10 participate in the PreACT, and students in Grade 11 participate in the ACT, as required by North Carolina.

Families receive Individual Student Reports and other assessment information through state and school reporting systems.

K–3 Reading

An Individual Reading Plan (IRP) is developed as required for students in kindergarten through third grade who demonstrate difficulty with reading. The IRP includes strategies and supports designed to address the student’s identified reading needs.

North Carolina uses mCLASS DIBELS 8th Edition as its K–3 literacy assessment system. The assessment supports universal literacy screening and progress monitoring.

1d) What are the qualifications of my child’s teachers?

Parents and guardians have the right to request information regarding the professional qualifications of their child’s teachers.

Educator licensure information is available through the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction. The state licensure lookup may not include current employment information, and additional identifying information may be necessary to accurately identify an educator.

Substitute teachers, whether serving in short-term or long-term assignments, may not hold a North Carolina teaching license.

Parents and guardians may contact the principal at 828-733-5241 with questions regarding an educator's licensure status.

1e) What are the requirements for school enrollment? What immunizations are needed or recommended for children?

North Carolina establishes statutory requirements for school enrollment, including age requirements, required documentation, health assessments, and immunizations.

Parents and guardians are responsible for providing required enrollment documentation and health and immunization records in accordance with North Carolina law and Marjorie Williams Academy enrollment procedures.

Information regarding current immunization requirements, health assessments, and recommended immunization schedules is available through the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS).

Requirements include applicable immunizations for:

- Kindergarten entry
- Seventh-grade entry
- Twelfth-grade entry

Families should consult current NCDHHS requirements and their child's health-care provider for specific immunization and health-assessment requirements.

2a) How can a parent help their child learn and make progress?

Engaging with your child about school and what they are learning is an important part of the learning process.

Parents and guardians are encouraged to:

- Ask questions daily about your child's school day.
- Ask about topics, assignments, and skills your child is learning.
- Communicate with teachers to understand your child's progress.
- Ask teachers how you can reinforce learning at home.
- Review schoolwork, progress reports, and report cards with your child.
- Attend school events and family engagement opportunities.
- Encourage regular reading at home.

The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction provides parent guides designed to help families understand the North Carolina Standard Course of Study and support learning at home.

Reading and Literacy Support

Families can support literacy development through activities that reinforce important reading skills, including:

- Phonemic awareness
- Phonics
- Vocabulary
- Fluency
- Comprehension
- Oral language

North Carolina provides digital and printable literacy resources for families. Families who need printed resources or who do not have reliable digital access may contact Marjorie Williams Academy at 828-733-5241 for assistance.

2b) How can a parent help their child develop citizenship, social skills, and respect for others?

Marjorie Williams Academy utilizes the Sanctuary Model of Care and Teaching with Love and Logic to support the development of character, resiliency, emotional intelligence, responsible decision-making, and respectful relationships.

Marjorie Williams Academy also incorporates skills identified through the North Carolina Portrait of a Graduate. These durable skills are designed to help prepare students for success in school, employment, postsecondary education, and life.

Parents and guardians are encouraged to partner with teachers and student services staff to support academic achievement, interpersonal skills, emotional regulation, healthy decision-making, and preparation for life after graduation.

2c) How can a parent help their child develop high expectations and set lifelong learning goals?

Parents and guardians play an important role in helping children develop high expectations for themselves and establish meaningful academic, career, and personal goals.

Families can support this development by encouraging students to:

- Set realistic but challenging academic and personal goals.
- Reflect on their progress and celebrate growth.
- Develop responsibility and independence.
- Explore career and postsecondary education opportunities.
- Recognize the connection between current learning and future goals.
- Develop perseverance, communication, collaboration, critical thinking, and other durable skills.

Marjorie Williams Academy reinforces these skills through classroom instruction, student services, career and postsecondary planning, and the durable skills represented in the North Carolina Portrait of a Graduate.

2d) How can a parent strengthen communication with the school/teacher?

Communication with parents and families is a priority at Marjorie Williams Academy.

The Academy communicates with families through a variety of methods, including:

- Marjorie Williams Academy website
- Facebook
- Call Multiplier
- Email
- Teacher communication
- Weekly At-Risk Reports
- Progress reports and report cards
- NC SIS powered by Infinite Campus Parent Portal

Parents and guardians are encouraged to:

- Review Academy communications regularly.
- Use the NC SIS Parent Portal to review available information regarding grades, assignments, attendance, and student progress.
- Review progress reports and report cards with their child.
- Set academic goals with their child.
- Communicate directly with teachers regarding student progress or concerns.
- Talk regularly with their child about school experiences.
- Encourage daily reading.
- Utilize school-recommended resources to support learning at home.

3) What services are available for parents and their children?

Marjorie Williams Academy provides students and families with information and resources related to postsecondary education, financial aid, scholarships, and college and career planning.

Resources available to North Carolina families include College Foundation of North Carolina (CFNC), the North Carolina State Education Assistance Authority (NCSEAA), NC Promise, and other state and federal financial-aid resources.

Marjorie Williams Academy also works with the Appalachian State University College Core program. College and career advising provides opportunities for students and families to learn about postsecondary options, scholarships, financial aid, and completion of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

4) What are opportunities for parents to participate with school?

Marjorie Williams Academy values parent and family participation and recognizes families as important partners in student success.

Parents and guardians are encouraged to participate through:

- Volunteer opportunities
- Parent/teacher conferences
- School events and activities
- Family engagement opportunities
- Communication with teachers and school staff
- Participation in opportunities communicated by the Academy throughout the school year

Marjorie Williams Academy maintains a Parent and Family Engagement Policy that provides additional information regarding family engagement opportunities and parent rights.

5) What rigorous academic programs are available to my child? How can I learn more about them?

Marjorie Williams Academy provides opportunities for students to explore and develop their interests and skills at an appropriate academic level.

Opportunities may include differentiated instruction, enrichment, acceleration, Credit by Demonstrated Mastery (CDM), North Carolina Virtual Public School (NCVPS) courses, and other advanced learning opportunities as appropriate.

Academically and/or Intellectually Gifted (AIG)

North Carolina public school units identify and serve academically and/or intellectually gifted students. These are students who perform, or demonstrate the potential to perform, at high levels of accomplishment in intellectual or specific academic areas when compared with other students of their age, grade, experience, or environment.

At Marjorie Williams Academy, services may include:

- Differentiated curriculum and instruction
- Flexible student grouping
- Subject or grade acceleration when appropriate
- Credit by Demonstrated Mastery
- Enrichment experiences
- Extension of grade-level content

North Carolina Virtual Public School

NCVPS is North Carolina's state supplemental online program. Students may participate in NCVPS courses when appropriate to expand course offerings and provide additional learning opportunities.

Credit by Demonstrated Mastery

Credit by Demonstrated Mastery (CDM) provides eligible students an opportunity to earn high school course credit by demonstrating mastery of course standards without traditional course enrollment or seat time.

Students participating in CDM must meet current North Carolina requirements and complete the state-approved process for demonstrating mastery.

6) What school choices are available for my child?

Marjorie Williams Academy is a North Carolina public charter school and a school of choice.

Charter schools are public schools authorized by the State Board of Education and operated by independent nonprofit boards of directors. State and local public funds are primary funding sources for charter schools.

Charter schools have open enrollment in accordance with applicable law and available capacity. Charter schools may not discriminate in admissions, associate with a particular religion or religious group, or charge tuition.

Charter schools have flexibility from some regulations governing traditional public school districts while remaining accountable through North Carolina's assessment and school accountability system.

Families may also explore other educational options available in North Carolina, including:

- Traditional public schools
- Other public charter schools
- Private schools
- Home schools
- Scholarship programs for eligible families

Information about these options is available through the appropriate North Carolina state agencies.

7) What rights do students with disabilities have based on the law?

Students who are suspected of having or are identified as having a disability under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) are entitled to procedural safeguards designed to ensure access to a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE).

The Exceptional Children Division of the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction provides information and resources for students with disabilities and their families.

Child Find

Child Find is the process for identifying, locating, and evaluating children and youth who may have disabilities and may need special education and related services.

This includes children and youth with suspected disabilities who may not currently be receiving needed services, including students who are highly mobile, migrant, homeless, or otherwise difficult to identify or serve.

If you believe your child has a disability or suspect that your child may have a disability, please contact your child's teacher, school administrator, or the Marjorie Williams Academy Exceptional Children Director at 828-733-5241.

Marjorie Williams Academy also utilizes a Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) to provide academic, behavioral, and social-emotional support based on student needs.

Information regarding procedural safeguards, Child Find, FAPE, transfer procedures, discipline procedures, Exceptional Children services, and MTSS is available through Marjorie Williams Academy and the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction.

8) What is the contact information for the school and district office?

Marjorie Williams Academy is a single-school North Carolina public charter school.

Parents and guardians may contact the Academy at:

Marjorie Williams Academy
Phone: 828-733-5241

Current staff contact information, school announcements, calendars, policies, and other school information are available through the Marjorie Williams Academy website at:

www.williamsacademy.org

9) What are some resources to support my child's health and wellbeing? What immunizations are required and when should they be scheduled?

Information regarding required health assessments, immunizations, school-entry health requirements, and recommended immunization schedules is available through the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS).

Parents and guardians should review current requirements applicable to their child, including requirements associated with:

- Kindergarten entry
- Seventh-grade entry
- Twelfth-grade entry
- Health assessments
- Immunization compliance

Families should consult current NCDHHS guidance and their child's health-care provider regarding required and recommended immunizations and health assessments.

Immunizations and Vaccinations: Parents and guardians are encouraged to review the current immunization schedule recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), as well

as information regarding meningococcal meningitis and influenza. Current information regarding required and recommended immunizations is available through the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services and the CDC.

For additional assistance, parents and guardians may contact Marjorie Williams Academy at 828-733-5241.