



WINSTON-SALEM/FORSYTH COUNTY SCHOOLS  
**VIRTUAL ACADEMY**

601 N. Cherry Street, Suite 250 | W-S, NC 27101 | (336) 703-4296

August 18, 2022

Dear Virtual Academy Students, Parents, and Guardians,

As your new principal, it is my pleasure to welcome everyone back from summer break. It was an honor meeting some of you at device distribution, and I look forward to meeting many more of you during our orientations and open house events. We know this year will continue to present challenges due to the continuing pandemic and we are committed to our partnerships with you to support our young people in addressing the learning gaps due to school closures. We will use each day to prepare strategies and action steps that reflect our school's annual goals:

- All students will meet or exceed their science growth targets and increase in cohort proficiency targets each year.
- All students will meet or exceed their math growth targets and increase in cohort proficiency targets each year.
- All students will meet or exceed their ELA/reading growth targets and increase in cohort proficiency targets each year.
- Each student will develop the social, emotional, and character competencies that will promote learning.

Partnering with you is essential to the success of our students. Throughout the year, we will host events for students and their families to engage in activities that promote learning and wellness. Our first events are *virtual* orientations for kindergarten and sixth grade students, and open houses for elementary grades 1-5 and middle grades 7-8 students. Please plan to join us. The links will become live on our webpage: <https://www.wsfcs.k12.nc.us/virtualacademy>. Our staff strives to provide relevant experiences for our students and families. Your feedback on our programming is always welcomed.

Again, I am honored to serve as the new principal of Virtual Academy. I believe that families, parents, teachers, and students working together to establish strong positive relationships will increase student holistic growth and academic achievement. You are a significant member of our Virtual Academy family, and you are important in our process of becoming one of the best schools in North Carolina! I look forward to our work together this year.

Sincerely with Artic Fox Felicity,

Benika J. Thompson, Ed.D.  
Principal, WS/FCS Virtual Academy