

The Thales Way

WELCOME TO OUR COMMUNITY

A photograph of the Thales Academy building, a large brick structure with a central entrance. The entrance is framed by a white portico with two columns. Above the entrance, a sign reads "THALES ACADEMY". The building has several arched windows. The sky is blue with white clouds. In the foreground, there is a parking lot with white lines.

THALES ACADEMY

PROUDLY SERVING NORTH CAROLINA

WAKE FOREST ♦ RALEIGH ♦ APEX ♦ ROLESVILLE ♦ AND GROWING!



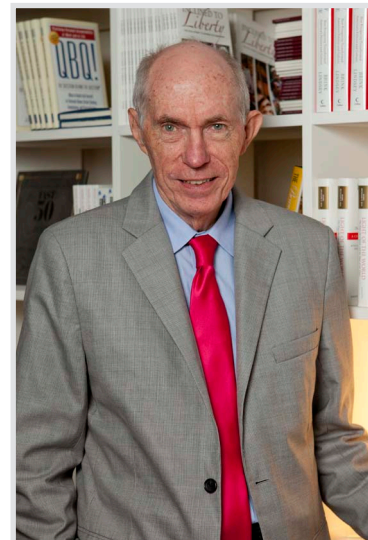
Under Mr. Luddy's guidance, his staff has shown us the positive influence Thales can have."

~ Thales Parent



Message from the Founder

Thales Academy began in 2006 with a small meeting of interested parents who wished to explore a better educational option for their children. The Thales concept quickly evolved, and in 2007 our first school opened its doors in Raleigh in a temporary facility. The following year, additional locations were opened in Wake Forest and Apex, and we now instruct over 1,200 students across the Triangle region.



Thales provides a superior education that utilizes traditional methods to form students holistically. We educate our students through the use of Direct Instruction (DI), classical curriculum, non-cognitive skills, and character development to ensure that each student is formed to be a thinker, virtuous leader, and contributing member of the community. Through our intense focus on the **Top 15 Outcomes of a Thales Academy Student**, we prepare students to succeed in every opportunity that crosses their path. Thales' approach equips our students to realize their limitless potential, and provides them with the tools they need to fulfill their ambitions and function at a level of excellence. All Thales Academy campuses conform to a consistent level of quality, discipline, and moral and academic standards. Each and every student at Thales is closely monitored to ensure mastery at every step along the way.

We aspire to continue this mission as we open additional campuses and work to form our students into tomorrow's leaders. We welcome you to the Thales community, and we hope that you will join us in our endeavors.

Robert L. Luddy
Chairman

OUR MISSION

To develop students with excellent academic and interpersonal skills through a curriculum infused with the values of our Founding Fathers and grounded by the Judeo-Christian and Greco-Roman heritage of Western Civilization.

We selected Thales of Miletus, a Greek scholar who lived in approximately the sixth century B.C., as our intellectual patron in recognition of his ground-breaking contributions in science, philosophy, teaching, entrepreneurialism, and pursuit of truth. He is widely considered the Father of the Sciences and Western Philosophy. He developed the Scientific Method and is quoted as saying, “**Know thyself.**” Simply put, he was a master of thought.

At Thales Academy, we stand alongside Thales of Miletus in our conviction that education is more than the mere accumulation of facts... it is a search for information, knowledge, and wisdom.

Education is a journey... one for which we prepare our students carefully, thoughtfully, and completely.

INTRODUCTION

The goal of Thales Academy is to launch each student toward a lifetime of health, happiness, and success. Our three pillars of learning — intellectual development, thinking capacity, and strength of character — are introduced through Direct Instruction for our K-5 students and through a classical curriculum grounded in the great conversations of human history for our junior high and high school students. Our lessons are always ordered to truth. Along with a complementary focus on science, technology, engineering, arts and math, Thales Academy uniquely prepares students for the road ahead. Our challenging curriculum, character education and non-cognitive skills development are all offered within an environment that is geared for success. Thales Academy graduates receive a college/university recognized diploma and are fully equipped for any path they choose.

THE THALES WAY:

- **Striving for Excellence**
- **Developing Leaders**

PARENT TESTIMONIAL:

At Thales, we are impressed with the tremendous care that each teacher has for the students. It is evident, with all the smiles and enthusiasm, that they love working at Thales. This translates into teachers who are personally invested in the students, in their success and celebrate their achievements. As parents, it makes us proud to be part of an educational institution which partners with us, not only in the child's educational needs, but in stressing traditional values and growth in virtue.

~ The Dooley Family



CURRICULUM

Education begins with knowledge. At Thales Academy we offer a rigorous course of study that will prepare a child for any future endeavor. The curriculum at Thales Academy is designed to help students achieve excellence. Our expectations for reading, writing, mathematics, science, history, and language are more rigorous than any other regional education alternatives.

Direct Instruction: K-5

In grades K-5, we use a research-based teaching method known as Direct Instruction (DI), which employs rapid pacing, choral responses, and grouping by skill set so teachers can lead the class more efficiently, and students can learn more effectively.

Children are given brief, highly accurate placement tests that allow teachers to design specific class work for small groups of similar skill levels. Teachers then model every task the class is asked to learn. When modeling is combined with structured lesson plans that follow systematic patterns, students readily make significant connections. Our instructors maximize the brisk pace of instruction, ensuring that all students are neither bored nor left behind.

Our goal is to teach more than facts. We teach the concepts, principles, rules, and strategies for comprehension and problem solving that will bring students continued achievement throughout their lives.

Learning cursive is a tradition that requires focus, coordination, and discipline.

Cursive writing lessons help children refine their fine motor skills, develop their artistic abilities, and create a unique personal signature that will serve them well for a lifetime.

Reading cursive handwriting is equally important. Students have the opportunity to examine and study copies of our nation's founding documents including the United States Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and the Federalist and Anti-Federalist Papers - all originally written in cursive writing.

“*We have seen a renewed love and zeal for learning, which we attribute, in part, to the Direct Instruction curriculum.*”

~ Thales Parent

THE THALES WAY:

- **Direct Instruction**
- **Discipline**
- **Efficient Learning**
- **Increased Confidence**
- **Fine Motor Skills Development**

TEACHER TESTIMONIAL:

All teachers want the best for their students. All parents want the best for their children. Fortunately, at Thales Academy, as a teacher and parent, I have been able to meet both of these goals. Five years ago I began working at Thales Academy and entered the world of Direct Instruction... and I could not be happier with my choice. Direct Instruction has a way to reach all students. The program is incredibly effective and keeps the students constantly engaged. Students receive multiple exposures to new concepts and information, making facts easier to recall in the future. In our DI program, information is continually revisited to help guarantee mastery. Concepts are touched on repeatedly throughout the course of the year, with each new exposure bringing an opportunity to further enhance knowledge and skills in changing situations.

Danny Ransford
Third Grade Teacher



Classical Curriculum: 6-12

Terrence Rattigan describes teaching as “the noblest calling that a man can follow”. At Thales Academy, we take that calling seriously so we teach a true classical curriculum which we believe develops the critical thinking skills necessary for a student’s success in the 21st century.

The Thales curriculum is grounded in anthropology. Young students focus on learning facts, but they soon progress to lessons that engage their natural curiosity, using investigative questions to explore the world around them. Ultimately, these students become scholars. They apply logic, express critical and true conclusions, and turn their attention to special projects determined by their own unique interests and talents.

Through the exploration of classic works written by great authors such as Homer, Thucydides, Chaucer, and Shakespeare, Thales students come to an understanding of the flow of history. They also receive Latin instruction, building a strong language foundation.

This is a highly challenging education, but we know that most students are innately capable and up to the task when encouraged appropriately. Our teachers rely on personalized, technologically savvy interactions with each individual student to maximize potential and produce not just graduates, but scholars.



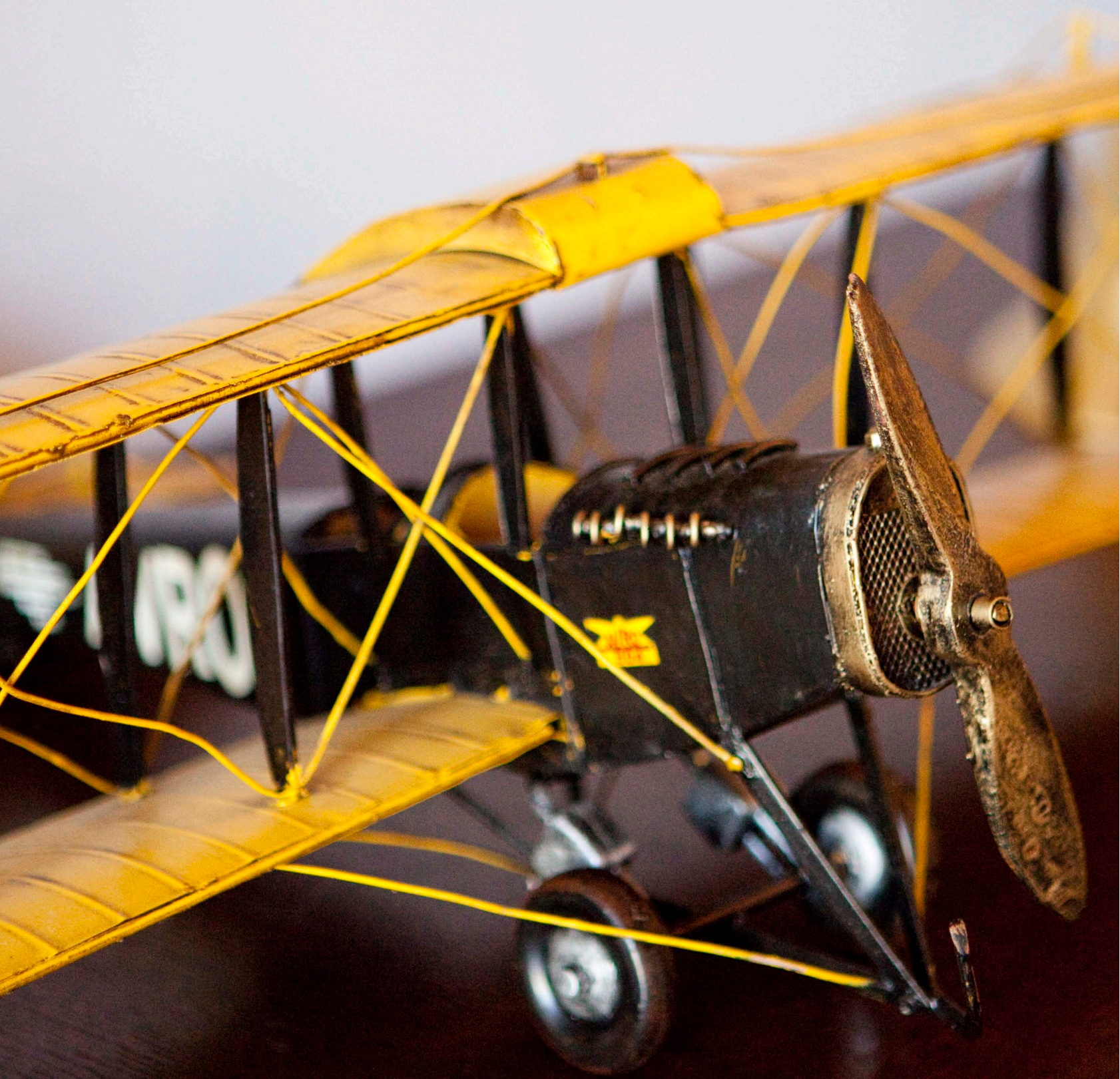
THE THALES WAY:

- *Pursuit of Truth*
- *Classic Works*
- *Latin Studies*

WORDS FROM ADMINISTRATION:

Families choose Thales Academy for many reasons. We emphasize a traditional and classical curriculum. We have high standards of academic achievement and accountability. We cultivate discipline, integrity and character formation in all our students. Through exploration of the classics, our junior high and high school programs build upon the strong foundations established during the K-5 Direct Instruction education, and cultivate the development of a wide array of intellectual tools. Our classical curriculum is designed to develop students’ ability to think, write, and communicate with emphasis on innovative thinking as well as critical thinking and problem solving skills. Thales fosters an environment that encourages students to be life-long thinkers, learners, and leaders throughout the community.

Hilary Herman
K-9 Administrator



The Human Mind

At Thales Academy we are bold about the future because we know with confidence that “the ultimate resource,” as the great scholar Julian Simon said, “is people - especially skilled, spirited, and hopeful young people endowed with liberty - who will exert their wills and imaginations for their own benefits, and so inevitably they will benefit the rest of us as well.”

Simon knew that these free young men and women, with their nearly unlimited capacity to create and achieve, will make from themselves—from their own thoughts and efforts — a constantly improving society.

Here at Thales our students develop and deploy the wonderful gift of their minds to identify truth and to solve challenges and problems. As they advance in their studies, they learn to think critically, exercise keen judgment, and understand the freedom in which the mind’s marvelous powers are unleashed. In time, they soon realize, as Simon did so well, that “the more we discover, the more we are able to discover.” And thus they head into adult lives of continuous learning, as grateful people who give back far more than they ever take. Yes, we are bold about the future, for the students we are privileged to educate are nothing less than the ultimate resource for the good of the world.

The Luddy Institute of Technology

The Luddy Institute of Technology (L.I.T.) is the next step for students moving toward careers in a global economy increasingly dependent on professionals with a strong grasp of complex technological platforms.

To prepare our scholars, we have established an optional dual-track course of work-study to help high school students improve their skills in the combined fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). Our training is results based, incorporating proven methods, and meeting the needs of the national economy.

Junior and senior L.I.T. students participate in industrial apprenticeships and business internships, giving them valuable real-world lessons in workplace structure, professional expectations, and finance management.

The Luddy Institute of Technology is fully college preparatory. Our program is engaging, hands on, and is designed for achievers. Our goal is to transform good students into exceptional leaders.

THE THALES WAY:

- **Critical Thinking**
- **Investigative Questions**
- **Internships**
- **Apprenticeships**
- **Real-World Application**
- **Career Preparation**

LESSONS FROM THE WRIGHT BROTHERS

Orville Wright once said, “We were lucky enough to grow up in an environment where there was always much encouragement to children to pursue intellectual interests.” They didn’t fly by accident or luck. They sought out an environment conducive to success. This is an important theme at Thales Academy. We stand for the pursuit of learning, the development of natural curiosity, and the understanding that in a technology field or discipline, the mind that knows no limits can achieve great things. But the Wright Brothers weren’t driven by a need for recognition. Their contributions — creative, technological, entrepreneurial—were the result of one thing only: the dream of creating a flying machine. That’s how they changed the world. And so we encourage our students to similarly aim for the sky, following their own path to success and making our global community better.



CHARACTER EDUCATION & NON-COGNITIVE SKILLS

Equally important in forming a child as a whole person is the development of character and skills that encompass academic aptitudes, work practices and social interaction such as persistence, self-control, conscientiousness, memory, attention, planning, interpersonal, verbal and written communication, language and critical thinking. With that in mind, at Thales we offer many opportunities for enrichment beyond the classroom.

Educational Field Trips

I often joke with my students that when they go home I simply turn out the lights in the classroom and hang like a bat from the duct work until morning. They have a hard time discerning that their teachers are real people outside of school. Where the line between the personal and the professional is nonexistent for them, for me it has blurred. In fact, the line has reoriented itself as a wonderfully shaded intersection of a Venn diagram.

Never before was it clearer to me than when, on a field trip, I marched a bedraggled group of students across the expanse of the Mall in Washington, D.C., up the steps of the Lincoln Memorial.

As we ambled into the shadowy overhang, I pointed out to my students the last paragraph of Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address inscribed on the interior wall. I made a few comments to my students regarding the speech's significance, impact, and history... expecting to turn and see them eyeing the gift shop or hear them ask where the bathroom was. However, each face gazed in awe at those words. I've seen that same look from them time and time again in the classroom. Their passion for learning travels with them beyond classroom walls. In that moment, I felt pride as a teacher who has a positive impact on my students. And through that experience, I've grown both as a teacher and as a person. My students constantly astound and challenge me.

Lincoln said, "Let us strive to finish the work we are in." Although he was talking of healing a nation in conflict, I can't help but accept those words as my own charge... striving to finish the work I have begun:

Teaching, inspiring, and learning from these exceptional students. Thales is where I can succeed in doing so.

Jeremy Hartzell
Junior High & High School Teacher

THE THALES WAY:

- **Strength of Character**
- **Learning Beyond the Classroom**
- **Inspiration**

PARENT TESTIMONIAL:

Our children both started kindergarten at Thales Academy and we couldn't be happier. The level of care and concern for students is amazing. Teachers go out of their way to help whether it be with academic or social concerns that students have. We love the strong academic program that allows children to excel beyond their grade level. They have a high standard for discipline that fosters an ideal learning environment. If you want a challenging and nurturing academic environment, look no further — Thales Academy is top notch!

~ Thales Parent



Competitions & Extracurricular Activities

Our pioneering focus on classical education and technology makes us an established leader in academic competitions and extracurriculars on both the state level and the national stage.

Thales Academy students are taking home top honors in competitions such as the Math Olympiads for Elementary and Middle Schools, the American Classical League, the Science Olympiad, the North Carolina Chess Association, Robotics competitions, Odyssey of the Mind, Quiz Bowl, and the Scripps National Spelling Bee. We have also had students selected to compete in the North Carolina Junior Olympics swimming division.

Each of these activities helps our students to actively utilize the lessons they have absorbed in the classroom. They hone social skills and develop life skills as well, preparing them for a lifetime of successful participation in any career they choose.

Contributing to the Community

Community service is a vital part of our Character Education program.

At Thales Academy, we help students understand the value of volunteering as a path toward both personal growth and a way to forge a stronger, more cohesive bond with the broader community.

Our students learn the benefits of integrity, respect, hard work, and selflessness through these service projects. They appreciate the opportunity to reach out and give of themselves while making new friends and reaping long-term rewards.

A Variety of Electives

Recognizing that a well-rounded education must include opportunity to explore the Arts, Thales Academy offers courses that compliment our high academic standards and expectations. Elementary students participate in weekly chorus and art classes. Over 75% of the students enrolled in Thales Junior High and High School elect to participate in music and art courses. The benefit of these courses is evident through research and our own observations related to high academic performance.

In addition to our music and art programs, elementary students participate in weekly physical education classes, and Junior High and High School students may choose from courses such as personal fitness, public speaking and technology, to name a few.

THE THALES WAY:

- **Enrichment**
- **Social Skills**
- **Teamwork**
- **Cooperation**
- **Developing Talents**

WORDS FROM ADMINISTRATION:

Thales Academy staff and families are committed to making a positive impact on our community. Instead of fund raising, students actively engage in the community through service.

Junior High and High School students participate in school-wide community service events that include reading and playing games at the Senior Center, gleaning fields at local farms, shopping for and organizing the Toys for Tots warehouse, and assisting with Backpack Buddies distribution and drop off.

Watching students show kindness to the elderly, enthusiastically gleaning collards and radishes, and happily select toys for children brings me great joy for I know that through their hard work and service, they are learning valuable life lessons that will help to foster a love of service in the days to come.

Melissa Edwards
Junior High & High School Administrator



LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Thales Academy provides a stimulating environment in which each child is surrounded by all that is necessary to achieve at a high level. Our highly motivated and expert staff is committed to excellence in teaching and shaping our students. Everything from technology to security has been carefully selected with one goal in mind: providing an environment that is conducive to success.

All of our teachers are experts in their fields, and double as impressive adult role models for our students. Thales Academy faculty have very low turnover and yearly teacher performance reviews.

Students at or above normal aptitude will be able to thrive in our academic environment. Our modern approach to education has resulted in exceptional student scores on all standardized tests. Thales Academy, on average, outperforms the national average on the Iowa Tests of Basic Skills, Readiness and the PSAT.



“

Our children are learning what it means to be good citizens. They're taught that moral character is key not just to their own success, but to the success of the community.”

~ Thales Parent

THE THALES WAY:

- *Expert Teachers*
- *Intellectually Challenging*

TEACHER TESTIMONIAL:

Students are grouped by skill set so they can maintain a good pace and learn with others who are challenged at the same rate. The Direct Instruction curriculum not only teaches students how to learn in the classroom, it also helps them discover new ways to apply that knowledge in real life scenarios. When taught correctly, DI makes learning fun and helps children maintain focus. They are constantly monitored and assessed to ensure mastery of learning. The systematic program also helps teachers measure their own effectiveness on a regular basis. Most importantly, our program is set up with the success of the students as our primary goal. All can succeed, provided the tools needed. Students will succeed when taught correctly. The confidence and growth demonstrated throughout the year in my students is incredible.

*Emilie Lafater
Third Grade Teacher*

KEEP CHAIRS
AND
FEET STILL

2
USE
PROPER
POSTURE

Pin Board
X



Technology

Our schools use iPads and Apple TV to enhance the educational experience and give teachers the freedom to instruct in new and better ways.

Classroom iPads are provided for the lower grades, with teachers reserving iPad carts to use when instruction via tablets is warranted. Personal tablets are issued to each high school student upon entry into ninth grade. At all levels, teachers utilize this technology to enhance learning. The iPads, in combination with Apple TV, give teachers access to important educational applications. Faculty can lead classroom discussions, demonstrate step by step problem solving, deploy interactive or instructional media, and allow students to participate in question and answer sessions. And with the easy mobility of Apple technology, our teachers can accomplish all of this from any classroom location.



“

We need technology in every classroom and in every student and teacher's hand, because it is the pen and paper of our time, and it is the lens through which we experience much of our world.”

~ David Warlick, Educator

THE THALES WAY:

- ***Innovation***
- ***Engaging Classrooms***

PARENT TESTIMONIAL:

As a teacher and parent of two children who attend Thales Academy, I could not be happier with the results. It's one thing to see the growth in my students, but to see it in my own children is incredibly rewarding. I have two children with very different personalities, and I was concerned that DI wouldn't be effective for both. I could not have been more wrong. Direct Instruction works for all students, no matter their learning style, behavior, or personality. The program is set up so that students know exactly what is expected of them, and everyone works together to meet those clear expectations.

~ Thales Teacher & Parent



Secure & Wholesome Environment

I have toured the facilities of Thales Junior High School and Thales Elementary School, and I was impressed with the thought and concern that was given to the safety and security of the students and staff. In reviewing their safety procedures, I found they not only have a plan, but they put it into practice with monthly drills. If something were to happen, an immediate and effective response would come naturally as everyone involved would instantly recall the actions required to protect the students and secure the school. This dedication is to be commended, and should be a comfort to parents as they drop off their kids to attend school at Thales Academy.

Jeffrey M. Leonard

Wake Forest Chief of Police

Wake Forest Police Chief Jeffrey Leonard is right. Having a comprehensive security strategy to keep our students safe is a top priority at Thales Academy. Aside from utilizing the same optimal building design at all locations, we have also installed safe-doors that automatically lock from the inside. Each campus follows a strict controlled access policy; visitors must identify themselves before being allowed entry. We also keep track of any student arriving at or leaving campus throughout the day, by implementing a thorough sign-in/sign-out procedure.

In the spirit of security and transparency, our school lockers have windows and no locks. Passersby can see the contents or open locker doors at any time. This encourages students to remain organized and honest, and is another way we keep our school buildings exceptionally clean and safe.

THE THALES WAY:

- **Integrity**
- **Wholesome Environment**

PARENT TESTIMONIAL:

Thales has strong academic programs and excellent staff! My child attends the Junior High program, and is so happy to be in a place where learning is safe and comfortable, and supported by the teachers. The teachers and administrators do an excellent job of maintaining an environment that allows my child to excel.

~ Thales Parent



The Community School

Every student is an integral part of our community.

Thales Academy recognizes that all children have an important role and way to contribute. We strive to help them develop into responsible, compassionate citizens.

Our broader family of parents, educators, students, and neighbors work together to help all students reach their full potential. We accomplish this by serving as role models of integrity. We provide proper moral, intellectual, and material support to children who are vulnerable to the many negative influences and deprivations in the world.

This is also the reason we invite families and neighbors, including local businesses, to help defray tuition costs for economically disadvantaged students who benefit from the Thales Academy 501(c)(3) Community School Scholarship Fund.

“

Staff members are like an extension of our family. They sincerely care about the well-being and development of our children.”

~ Thales Parent

Globally Competitive

When the Zhou family left Thales Academy for Hong Kong in 2013, their parents were concerned about academic placement.

When it came to choosing a new school, how would their children's preparation at Thales Academy help them in this vastly different, global environment?

Thales provides a world class education. This was a fact the Zhou family had known when they first enrolled, and it was confirmed when their children were accepted into Hong Kong International School, recently named the top private international school in Hong Kong.

“

Thanks to the solid education they received at Thales, both kids excelled in school assessments and interviews and were admitted into our first choice school in Hong Kong. To me, it's a huge relief, and we are forever grateful.”

~ The Zhou Family

THE THALES WAY:

- *Community Approach to Education*

WORDS FROM ADMINISTRATION:

Thales Academy is excited to provide an amazing educational experience for all students. With spacious classrooms, inviting playground activities, and beautifully landscaped exterior, the moment you drive onto our campus you feel the warm invitation to be a part of all that is Thales Academy. Our exceptional faculty and staff share a love for enriching and encouraging students to achieve a high level of academic success by equipping them with the skills and resources they need to exceed expectation. The students at Thales Academy exemplify outstanding strength and leadership. Our students demonstrate a strong sense of respect for authority while highly valuing their education and their active role in pursuing their own personal goals and objectives.

Suzanne Lambert
K-5 Administrator



Continuous Learning - Year Round

We are a year-round school. Students attend on a quarterly system of nine week instructional periods separated by regular three week breaks. This allows children to learn more, retain more, and become continual learners without the lost time of an extended summer break.

In this way, children keep building their knowledge as they progress through the grades, and that instructional efficiency leads to enhanced performance.



The Thales Academy Dress Code

Thales Academy adheres to a simple dress code:

Khaki or navy pants, skirts, or shorts paired with polo shirts of various colors.

It is a requirement that allows students the freedom to focus their attention on academics and those aspects of character that are truly important, while simultaneously fostering an atmosphere of professionalism that matches the standard set by our teachers and administrators.

“

As parents, it makes us proud to be part of an educational institution which partners with us, not only in education but traditional values and virtue.”

~ Thales Parent

THE THALES WAY:

- *Continuous Learning*
- *Professionalism*
- *Freedom to Focus*
- *Dress Code*

TEACHER TESTIMONIAL:

Thales Academy not only facilitates the development of students' minds by exposing them to the wide-ranging content of a classical curriculum, but also demonstrates in its very nature that all learning is connected and that students need only interrogate texts, objects, and themselves in order to reach the deepest levels of understanding. Our year-round calendar is particularly well-suited to this structure; students often return after a break with no more attrition in knowledge than they experience over a long weekend. Moreover, four times per year, students begin a new academic quarter with renewed energy and fresh perspective; they have been out in the world connecting what they have learned in the classroom with non-academic experiences and often bring those connections back to share with teachers and classmates.

*Ashlie Canipe
High School Teacher*



Top 15 Outcomes of a Thales Academy Student

Of course, a Thales education includes more than academics. Recognizing the importance of character in living a happy and successful life, we pay close attention to character formation, instructing and challenging our students to absorb and practice these strengths and virtues based on the Judeo-Christian values of our Founding Fathers. These lessons are reinforced by murals (such as the one to the left) that fill our hallways. With a clear focus on traits such as integrity, respect, hard work, and selflessness we find successful character formation involves a commitment from the family, student, and school.

We have an exceptional culture of civility, fairness, and respect at Thales Academy. By graduation, each of our students will have mastered all fifteen of these outcomes.

Self-Reliance creates confidence to depend on one's own powers and resources to meet all of one's needs.

A Critical Thinker discerns the truth of a statement or observation through questioning and examination.

A Virtuous Leader with Well-Developed Judgment combines thinking skills and traits such as humility, generosity, and courage.

A Continuous Learner takes lessons from all aspects of life and work, learns from mistakes, and adapts to change.

Competent Technical Skills allow individuals to join modern technological industries and navigate modern life.

A Truth Seeker searches for the correct, right, or accurate explanation of reality, following the scientific method.

Unfailing Integrity compels a person to follow a strong code of ethics with honesty in all situations.

Astute Problem Solving leads one to identify the solutions to a problem, evaluate likely outcomes, assess risk, and choose correctly.

A Cooperative and Contributive Team Member knows how to collaborate to achieve successful results.

A Strong Work Ethic links perseverance, reliability, and honesty.

Dreams and Aspirations to Change the World help us remember that directed efforts bring us closer to our goals.

Traditional American Values and Entrepreneurialism drive a leader to build and sustain a thriving economy.

Well-Developed People & Communication Skills promote effective sharing with a clear message.

Gratitude acknowledges the gifts one has been given and the contributions of others.

A Healthy Mind, Body and Spirit offer the freedom to operate at an optimal level and achieve a higher sense of fulfillment.



**Construction of Thales Academy
Junior High & High School, Rolesville, NC**

Growth & Expansion

Thales to build Rolesville campus: *Expansion completes school's K-12 option*

Published in *North Raleigh News* on October 16, 2012
Article by Colin Campbell (ccampbell@newsobserver.com)

As school lets out at the Thales Academy in Wake Forest, the carpool line snakes for blocks through the office park in Wake Forest's Heritage community. It's a daily logistical challenge that shows the popular private school's need for more space. The rapidly growing Thales is about to break ground on a new junior high and high school on Rogers Road in Rolesville. It will be the town's first private school and complete Thales' expansion into a K-12 educational option.

Bob Luddy, a businessman and public school critic who founded Thales in 2007, said families want to stick with the unique educational model. "A number of the parents indicated they would like to go through high school," Luddy said. When the new \$7.5 million facility opens in 2014, elementary students will stay in Heritage, while grades 6-12 will move to the 17-acre Rolesville campus. The 55,000-square-foot building will be five times the size of the junior high school's current home and house as many as 500 students.

The [Wake Forest campus] high school began [in the Fall of 2012] with the first ninth-graders, and a new grade will be added each year until the first class graduates in 2016. High schoolers continue the classics curriculum, in which they begin learning Latin in the sixth grade. Teens who are interested in technical careers such as mechanical engineering can take classes billed as the Luddy Institute of Technology.

"Every individual doesn't have to be on the exact same track," Luddy said. "A lot of people are misdirected. ... We try to get them exposed to as many things as possible."

The Wake Forest campus high school will emphasize the arts, too, continuing the band, chorus and performing arts offerings of the junior high school. The new campus will have a full auditorium for student performances, along with media production facilities. Each high schooler gets an iPad, which teachers can link to high-tech Smartboards or Apple TVs. The teachers offer extra-help lectures via YouTube, and students can project their own work onto a screen. With athletic fields at the Rolesville site, Thales will offer after-school sports — no football, though. "In lieu of football, we have a stronger emphasis on arts," school administrator Melissa Edwards said. Despite the gadgets, Luddy touts the school's \$5,300 annual tuition [for elementary grades], which is lower than most area private schools.

He says the per-student cost of education is lower than area public and charter schools because there's no central office administration. Starting with just 25 students in 2007, Thales has grown quickly.

A North Raleigh campus near Triangle Town Center opened [in 2012] for grades K-8, and the Thales campus in Apex will add a high school in the coming years. The elementary campus at Wake Forest recently hit its maximum enrollment of 400.

THE THALES WAY:

- *Growth*
- *Moving Forward*

STUDENT TESTIMONIAL:

Thales Academy means much more to me than any other school. It has helped me grow both academically and as a person. The great education has helped me prepare for later in life. But it's not just the education; the environment has helped me improve. Before I enrolled at Thales, I was shy, awkward, and disruptive in class. Now I have made the best friends of my life and improved in character all around.

I have enjoyed my time at Thales greatly. The academics let me decide how I want to learn, and the curriculum lets me improve my chances of success in the business world. I love learning here and I know that I will continue to grow and succeed as I stay.

Evan Gales
Tenth Grade Student

At Thales Academy we work with our students and families to instill a lifelong love of learning. We pull rather than push. We teach rather than command. We inspire rather than berate. We believe in the dignity and greatness of man.

This is The Thales Way.



Thales Academy

The Community School

Apex Campus
(K-5 & JH)

1177 Ambergate Station
Apex, NC 27502
919.303.3108

Raleigh Campus
(K-5)

8151 Town Drive
Raleigh, NC 27616
919.882.2320

Wake Forest Campus
(K-5)

3106 Heritage Trade Dr.
Wake Forest, NC 27587
919.453.6415

Wake Forest Campus
(JH & HS)

3121 Heritage Trade
Drive Suite 104
Wake Forest, NC 27587
919.435.2715

and Growing!

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

WWW.THALESACADEMY.COM