

Our Story

Rocky Mount Prep was founded in 1997 by local business leaders to provide a rigorous, “world-class” education to prepare scholars from all backgrounds for success in college, career, and life. From its inception, the school’s founders have had a conviction that all children can learn, and that every student should be challenged to reach his or her fullest potential.

Its original charter application promised the school would “offer parents and students a fundamentally different choice in K-12 education from conventional public schools. The School’s founders are profoundly committed to school choice and its potential to revitalize public education. When students and staff attend a school by choice, not assignment, they are likely to embrace its mission and philosophy, and as a result, unleash a collective energy to the realization of its goals.”

The over-arching goals of the school are to:

- Demonstrate the heights of academic achievement that economically disadvantaged students can routinely attain when the advantages of charter school governance are coupled with ambitious new academic standards
- Provide a challenging core curriculum for all students, based on practices proven through the best available evidence of effectiveness in attaining superior academic outcomes.
- Provide each student with an accelerated academic achievement to close learning gaps and advance while giving them the motivation and support to excel in school, college and life.

The school enjoyed success in its early years, but lost its original building in the flood of Hurricane Floyd in 1999. Eventually, the board secured financing for its beautiful campus in north Rocky Mount across the street from North Carolina Wesleyan College.

An Updated Vision

In the summer of 2016, Rocky Mount Prep’s Board of Directors decided to refocus the school’s strategic direction to restore its original vision of

providing a “world-class education” updated for the 21st century learner under the direction of Todd Pipkin, Head of School. In just a few months, the school made sweeping, state-of-the-art changes to the school’s facility, staffing model and technology infrastructure to dramatically improve student achievement and operating efficiency.

Under the leadership of Todd Pipkin, a new [vision](#) of the school was put into place at Rocky Mount Prep. We continue to work hard every day to learn new things, innovate and improve the school and ourselves so that we will fulfill our mission to “inspire scholars to expect excellence, express excitement, extend education, and experience Prep”.