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## Horizon Science Academy of Lorain responds to state report card

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With the release of Ohio Department of Education report cards earlier in the month, Horizon Science Academy of Lorain, 760 Tower Blvd. in Lorain, is celebrating an overall “C” grade for the 2018-19 school year.

Assistant principal Jayson Bendik said the grade is indicative of the hard work that put teachers front and center.

“Everything that drives us is the teacher,” Bendik said, adding that some work as many as six or seven days a week. “The teacher is the heartbeat of the school.

“We have some fantastic teachers here that work extremely hard.”

Horizon was 0.2 points away from earning an overall grade of a “B,” which is the ultimate goal in the coming years, according to principal Daniel Sumer.

Additionally, the Academy’s performance index also increase to 81.6 from 68.4 from 2016-19.

“Over the years, we see that the trend is always going up and we’re definitely

not gonna stop growing on our PI (performance index) score,” Sumer said.

Horizon’s goal is to reach a “C” grade on its performance index, which is 84 points, he said.

The Academy also received “B” grades for graduation rate and progress, with its lowest grade being an “F” in prepared for success.

Sumer said the latter category is the most difficult to receive a good grade, since it fluctuates with the student body’s state testing performance every year.

“We’re not happy to see ‘F’ in there,” he said. “We’re definitely working on that area.”

Bendik and Sumer said that work looks like data analysis, teacher conversations and an individualistic look at the strengths and weaknesses of every student.

Since all grades from kindergarten to 12th grade are housed in the building, Bendik said it’s easier for Horizon teachers to meet up and discuss what has and hasn’t worked for students in the past for future growth.

Additionally, professional learning community meetings for teachers adds an-



Mr. Shawn Simmons History Teacher & 12th Grade Student Planning for College

other sense of responsibility to their own classrooms, Bendik said.

As for performance, he said charters schools operate with a different mindset than public schools.

“I would say it’s a no excuse mentality in terms of operation because in terms of our school, if we don’t

perform, the way charter school law is, we get closed,” Bendik said.

Overall, the upward climb to improvement is promising for the district, he said.

“We’re here, we have Lorain kids,” Bendik said. “We’re excited about it, and we’re excited about the future of our school.”