

# Press Release

## Middle School Receives Blue Ribbon Award

September 24, 2013

ORLANDO, Florida – The First Academy Middle School has been named a 2013 National Blue Ribbon Exemplary High Performing School, it was announced by the United States Department of Education Tuesday morning.

The First Academy is one of just 22 middle schools that were selected, and the sole middle school honoree in the state of Florida. Nationally, TFA is one of just 50 private institutions that were recognized.

The National Blue Ribbon Schools Program, awarded each year by United States Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, selects schools where students perform at very high levels or where students are making significant gains in academic achievement.

The National Blue Ribbon Schools flag overhead has become a symbol of educational excellence recognized by everyone from parents to policy-makers in thousands of communities. In its more than 30-year history, the Department has bestowed this coveted award on some 7,000 American schools.

“Exemplary High Performing” schools are among their state’s highest performing schools, as measured by state assessments or nationally-normed tests.

The recognition is the second such honor that The First Academy has received, with the Lower School earning Blue Ribbon status in 2009.

For the official release from the Department of Education, please visit <http://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/us-secretary-education-arne-duncan-announces-286-national-blue-ribbon-schools-20>.

The First Academy is a Christ-centered college preparatory school serving more than 1,150 Central Florida students attending K4 through 12th grade. To learn more about The First Academy, visit [www.thefirstacademy.org](http://www.thefirstacademy.org) or call us at (407) 206-8602.