Dear Elementary Parents & Guardians,

We have reached that point again when it is time to share with you some important information about your child’s growth and development. On Friday, you will receive a report card for the first card marking of the year. The elementary report card communicates your student’s achievement in many ways. First, it clarifies and reinforces consistent, high expectations for all students and schools. Second, the report card helps teachers, students, and families focus on the attainment of grade level state standards throughout the school year. Finally, and most importantly, the report card provides specific feedback on your child’s progress related to the standards, so students, families, and teachers can work together to set meaningful goals for improvement.

Teachers evaluate your child’s progress based on the grade level priority standards of performance and skill development expected for all students in each content area. The report card provides valuable information on your student’s performance related to mastery of those standards. It also provides information on your child’s work habits, behavior, and effort.

Over the last two years, your child’s report card had a grade for each standard that was taught during a trimester and reported student’s growth with that standard using areas of strengths and goal areas. Although the strengths and goals were meant to clarify the standard grade, parents reported that they did not help. This year we replaced strengths and goals in content areas with an additional level of mastery of the standard, On-Target (OT). On-Target reflects that your child is mastering the skills that they are being taught this trimester that will lead to their expected attainment of the end of year standard.

Most students will receive grades of On-Target, Approaching Standards (AS) or Not Yet Approaching the Standard (NY) at this point of the year. Your child’s teacher should provide additional information regarding your child’s growth on that standard through personalized comments. The goal is for all students to master the standards for their grade level in each subject area by the end of the year.

The standards will be assessed using the following indicators and criteria:

**Meets Standard (MS)** – This student demonstrated a thorough understanding of the concepts and skills. Performance is characterized by an ability to apply skills with most tasks. Performance is consistent with accuracy, quality and level of support. No major errors or omissions regarding any of the information or processes (simple or complex) that were explicitly taught.

**On Target (OT)** – Progress toward the standard. This student demonstrates an understanding of basic concepts and skills that have been taught thus far. Performance is characterized by the ability to apply skills with increasing success toward grade level standard. At this time the student is on-target to meet the end of year standard.

**Approaching Standard (AS)** – Progress toward the standard. This student demonstrates an understanding of basic concepts and skills. Performance is characterized by the ability to apply skills with increasing success. Performance varies in consistency with accuracy and quality. At this time there is a need for continued instruction and support to meet the end of year standard.
Not Yet Approaching Standard (NY) – Not yet approaching the standard. At this time the student does not demonstrate an understanding of basic concepts and skills. Performance is inconsistent even with guidance and support.

We know that over time, this approach to reviewing student academic growth and development will become more familiar for you and your student and lead to increased achievement of our state standards. We have created a Frequently Asked Questions for Standards Based Grading to provide you with more information: FAQ About Your Child’s Standards-Based Grading Report Card.

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