# Standards-Based Assessment and Grading

A Parents Guide to the Lampeter-Strasburg Elementary Division Report Card



Lampeter-Strasburg School District - Elementary Division



### Why Standards-Based Grading and Assessment?

#### Standards Show Skill.

The goal of the District's Elementary Standards-Based Report Card is to clearly and accurately communicate each student's level of achievement relative to standards-aligned, District curricula and his/ her application of grade-level student skills. This report card will more accurately report learning relative to the Pennsylvania Core Standards established by the state of Pennsylvania.

Standards clearly describe what students are expected to know and be able to do in each grade level. In a standardsbased classroom, the focus is on a student's performance over multiple opportunities, not simply the grading and averaging of tests and quizzes. Standards are specified learning goals applied to all students and provide consistent learning targets at each grade level. Standards also provide a focus for aligning curriculum, instruction, and assessment. Each local school district in Pennsylvania develops curriculum aligned to the Pennsylvania Core Standards. Using this report card, learning will be reported according to benchmarked levels each trimester that reflect progress towards the overall grade-level standards.

The purpose of this brochure is to provide students, parents, and the community with helpful information related to the Elementary Division's new Standard-Based Report Card. After reviewing this information, additional questions can be directed to your student's building principal. "The purpose of this progress report is to clearly and accurately communicate each student's level of achievement relative to standards-aligned, district curricula and her/his application of grade-level student skills."



## **ElementaryAssessmentandGradingProcedures**



#### **EVIDENCE-BASED LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

Proficiency of the Grade Level Standard (P) Steady Progress toward Proficiency of the Grade Level Standard (S) Limited Progress toward Proficiency of the Grade Level Standard (L) Standard(s) Not Assessed at this Time (Blank)

#### **ASSESSMENT FOR LEARNING:**

Assessment and grading must reflect learning outcomes. Behavioral outcomes will be reported separately from academic achievement. The following procedures will be be implemented:

#### HOMEWORK

- The purpose of homework is to practice and study specific skills to develop proficiency.
- Homework is an extension of what was taught in class and may be differentiated as necessary based on learning skills.
- Consistent late homework will be reported as a behavior in the behavioral section of the report card.
- Students who do not complete homework may be required to complete their assignments during a prescribed time at school.

#### CLASS WORK SUBMITTED LATE

- It is the expectation that all assigned work be completed by required deadlines. All assigned work represents evidence toward proficiency of specific skills or outcomes and, therefore, must be completed.
- Students who do not complete work by the required deadlines will be required to complete their assignments. Assignments can be completed at home or during a presribed time at school.
- All completed late work will be evaluated as evidence toward proficiency and no loss of "credit" will be reflected in
  progress toward achievement.
- Consistent late work will be reported as a behavior in the behavioral section of the report card.

#### **GROUP PROJECTS**

• Group projects are part of cooperative learning, not cooperative assessment. Students who are assigned to work in cooperative learning groups will be assessed individually on their learning, not the learning of the group.

#### ATTENDANCE

• Students will be provided time to complete all assignments missed while absent aligned with building procedures. Assignments not completed by prescribed timelines outlined in the attendance policy of the building will be subject to the procedures outlined above for work submitted late.

#### ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

 All assignments must be completed with academic integrity. Academic dishonesty, including but not limited to, cheating or plagiarism, will not be tolerated. Academic dishonesty will be handled as a discliplinary issues and the student will be required to complete an alternate assignment or test so the teacher can still evaluate mastery of the skills or outcomes being assessed.

# L-S Elementary Standards-Based Report Card Highlights

- Your student's performance will be measured against the standard, rather than simply being compared to other students in his/her class.
- The new report card will provide you and your child a more detailed and accurate assessment of academic progress. Teachers will gain a clearer understanding of students' strengths and needs.
- Students will be evaluated based on what they know. Rather than receiving arbitrary points or letter grades, students must demonstrate proficiency on a common list of course standards.
- In order to more accurately report learning, the Elementary Division will move to trimesters rather than quarters at the start of the 2015-2016 school year. Simply, students will receive three report cards each year rather than four. Trimesters will only be implemented for students in grades K-5. Learning for secondary students will continue to be reported by quarter.
- Learning reported for each trimester will represent student's benchmarked progress toward end of year goals.
- The Responsible Learner Rubric (the last page of the report card) will report behavioral expectations separately from academic expectations. Students and parents will be able to use the rubric to work towards desired behavioral expectations. Behavior will be reported by trimester.
- Parent conferences will continue to be held in the fall of each school year. Each building and/or teacher will communicate procedures for scheduling yearly conferences. The report card may not contain teacher comments the first trimester as a result of parent conferences.

# Why the Move to Trimesters?

The Elementary Division will report student learning three times per school year. Trimesters will provide studentswiththeappropriate time to provide evidence of learning toward trimester benchmark goals. Learning for secondary students will continue to be reported on a quarterly basis.



### Standards-Based Report Card Example



### **Responsible Learner Rubric Example**



The purpose of this progress report is to clearly and accurately communicate each student's level of achievement relative to standards-aligned, district ourriculum and her his application of grade-level student skills.

# **Glossary of Terms**

- **Learning Outcomes:** Descriptors that represent achievement levels as a measure of standards.
- **Standards:** Define what students should know and should be able to know at each grade level.
- **Assessment:** The gathering and interpretation of information about individual student achievement through the use of a variety of assessment tools and instructional strategies.
- **Rubric:** A set of guidelines for assessment that states the characteristics being assessed with clear performance criteria and a rating scale.
- Pennsylvania Core Standards: As part of the new Chapter 4 regulations, Pennsylvania's Core Standards offer a set of rigorous, high-quality academic expectations in English Language Arts and Mathematics that all students should master by the end of each grade level. The Pennsylvania Core Standards are robust and relevant to the real world and reflect the knowledge and skills our young people need to succeed in life after high school, in both post-secondary education and a globally competitive workplace.

#### **CONTACT US:**

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