



HERRICKS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Education Today
Knowledge Forever

Department of World Languages,
Language Immersion and
English as a New Language

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Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

We are excited that a new elementary standards-based report card is available to inform you of your child's performance based on the content standards at each grade level. Since your child is enrolled in the Spanish Language Immersion Program, we would like to share how the new standards-based report card can inform you of your child's progress in class with respect to the Spanish language. The fact that your child is in such a program will greatly benefit him/her as a learner in many ways. Much the same way that a standards-based reporting system assesses progress towards end of year benchmarks, we acknowledge that Spanish language acquisition is no different - every child will grow at his/her own pace. The language immersion team created new and separate Language Proficiency Reports (LPR). The LPR will provide parents of immersion students with a better understanding of how a child's Spanish language learning is progressing toward grade specific proficiency targets. These LPR will be made available to parents in January and June. This will ensure that we have enough time to assess students, both formally and informally over time and separate from their elementary report cards. A few things to share:

- Math and Science, and at times, Social Studies, are taught in Spanish. If your child meets a standard on the new standards-based report card, it shows that he/she is understanding the language of delivery. Please note that at times, students may struggle with a math or science concept, but the language of delivery may not be the issue. As educators, we identify those areas and provide appropriate supports to ensure that students are on target to meet the standards.
- To determine our language proficiency targets, the team examined data from local assessments, feedback from teachers on classroom performance, and finally, they reviewed proficiency targets from similar programs nationwide. We administered and will continue to administer the ACTFL Assessment of Performance toward Proficiency in Languages (AAPPL). The AAPPL is given to students only in grades 3 and above to assess and determine proficiency levels. Please note that we will assess our grade 3-10 immersion students in the early winter with the AAPPL. The AAPPL is low stress and is administered online within 30 to 40 minutes. As always, we will share the results with our community when these assessments are administered.
- Finally, we want to instill in our learners a Can Do Attitude! Their social and emotional well-being is important and a growth-mindset is needed to help each child along as they master content and language over time.

As the district implements a new standards-based elementary report card, we thought it important to separate and provide you with a Language Proficiency Report in the near future to inform you and your child on how they are progressing to meet our proficiency targets in Spanish. We are still making adjustments to our reports. A more detailed letter will accompany the new LPR in January. Please know that the language immersion team is available to answer any questions that you may have.

Sincerely,