

November 16, 2009

Dear Mercer Island Families:

November is, among other important occasions, time for parent-teacher conferences. Conferences will be held this year between November 19<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. This is an important opportunity for you to talk with your teacher about your child's progress within our District curriculum.

With this November report card we begin the third year of implementation of our **Standards-Based Report Card**. The report card is designed to provide you with information about your child's progress towards achieving the *learning standards* within our curriculum. A standard is a common learning goal that all students are expected to know or be able to do. Working to meet standard is the focus of each of our school's work.

The purpose of the report card is to communicate your child's progress towards meeting or exceeding the standards at each trimester. Progress is reported using the following key.

**Academic Evaluation Key:**

4 = Exceeding Standards at Trimester

3.5 = Student is working beyond level 3, but not consistent at 4

**3 = Meets Standards at Trimester**

2.5 = Progressing Toward Standards at Trimester --

Student is working beyond level 2, but not consistent at 3

2 = Progressing Toward Standards at Trimester - Meeting some expectation for grade level

1 = Below Standards at Trimester --Not yet meeting expectations for grade level

The report card does not compare students to each other, nor is it a letter grade based on a percentile. As you can see in the key above, a 3 indicates that the student is at standard. Please do not equate the levels with grades since there is no correlation. Your child's teacher will report on student progress at each of the three trimester reporting periods: November, March and June.

Each trimester report card indicates how your child has done on what was taught by the end of the trimester. A "3" does not mean the student met the standard for the end of the year, but rather has met the expectations for the learning assigned so far. It is also important to keep in mind that concepts in areas of the curriculum are often increasingly challenging as the year progresses, and new topics are taught in various curricula areas; therefore, a score of "3" each successive trimester would indicate significant growth and learning.

During your conference, teachers will report on your child's progress toward grade level expectations for the first trimester. This report will be based on classroom-based assessments. Please feel free to inquire about the standards and how you can support your child's learning. Working together will help your child successfully progress throughout the year.

Best regards,

Dr. Nancy Loorem  
Island Park Elementary

Rich Mellish  
West Mercer Elementary

Fred Rundle  
Lakeridge Elementary