

WHAT IS EVALUATED?

Pro Social Skills

- Personal Development/Classroom and Community Skills
- Approaches to Learning

English Language Arts

- Reading Foundational Skills
- Reading Literature and Informational Text
- Writing within the Genre
- Speaking and Listening
- Language

Mathematics

- Practice Standards
- Counting and Cardinality (K)
- Operations and Algebraic Thinking
- Measurement and Data
- Geometry
- Fractions (Grades 3&4)
- Numbers and Operations

Socials Studies

- Civics and Government
- Geography
- History and Culture

Science

- Science Practices
- Life Science
- Physical Science

BELMONT PUBLIC SCHOOLS



ELEMENTARY STANDARDS-BASED REPORT CARD

Guide for
Parents and Guardians

Grades K-4

BELMONT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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PILOTING OUR NEW REPORT CARD

We are pleased to introduce our new standards-based report cards. They will be piloted during the 2014-15 school year in grades K-4. A team of teachers and administrators spent a year developing this reporting instrument which is designed to give parents more detailed information about students' progress toward specific learning standards. All K-4 classroom teachers and administrators, throughout the district, have had the opportunity to provide input as we finalized the new documents.

WHY CHANGE?

For a number of years, the teaching staff has been dissatisfied with a report card which did not adequately reflect curriculum and classroom instruction. When national standards were adopted by Massachusetts' Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, we recognized that it was the perfect time to update our reporting instrument so that we are providing clearer, more detailed information to parents. The new report cards are based on the standards articulated in the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks. They clearly reflect the curriculum which is addressed and the learning expectations at each grade level. Students will be evaluated in relation to their progress toward meeting January and June benchmarks.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

- Aligns with curriculum and instruction
- Enables parents to better understand grade level expectations and support their children's learning
- More frequent evaluation/communication points (The old reporting system included 3 communication points because report cards were not separated from conferences. The pilot includes 4 communication points.)
- More two-way communication during conferences which will not be driven by the report card
- Alerts parents to students' strengths and areas for growth at the conferences, prior to the official report card
- Reflects the amount of support that students are requiring in relation to each standard
- Supports consistent assessment and reporting across the district
- Incorporates PE, art and music instead of having separate documents with different distribution dates

EVALUATING THE PILOT

We will solicit input from:

- Parents
- Teachers
- Administrators

TIMELINES

NOVEMBER: CONFERENCES

Parents and teachers meet for conversations about students' learning. There will be no written documents at this time.

JANUARY 23: REPORT CARDS ISSUED

They will be sent home in backpacks.

MARCH: CONFERENCES

Parents and teachers meet for conversations about students' learning. There will be no written documents at this time.

JUNE: REPORT CARDS ISSUED

Report cards will be sent home in backpacks on the final day of school.

RATINGS

Students' academic performance will be rated using the following performance indicators:

M – The student demonstrates **mastery** of the concept/skill and applies it with independence.

D – The student is **developing** an understanding of the concept/skill with occasional support.

B – The student is **beginning** to understand the concept/skill with frequent support.

NY – The student does **not yet** understand the concept/skill and requires consistent support.