



**Department of Curriculum,
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Maureen G. Bur
Director of PreK-5 Instruction

Dear Parents,

November 26, 2012

A report card serves as a communication tool to help parents understand how their child is progressing. It helps explain whether a student is meeting the developmental milestones that are expected in their current grade. On our Standards-Based Report Cards, students and parents will have a deeper understanding of performance due to the detailed picture of student learning with a focus on what students know, instead of an overall average of what they have done.

When your child consistently shows depth of understanding and flexible application of grade-level concepts and with relative ease grasps, applies, extends key concepts, processes, and skills for the grade level and beyond, you will see an ES (excels at standards). When a child consistently, accurately and independently applies the knowledge, skills and standards appropriate for the grade on multiple and varied assessments over time you will see a MS (meets standards). It means they are doing exactly what they are supposed to do. If you see an AS (approaching standards) that means your child may have some understanding of the concepts and skills but they demonstrate the skills inconsistently. They are showing progress, but are not at the grade level standard yet and require some support. If you see a CA (concern area), this indicates considerable assistance is needed and your child is performing below standards for their grade.

We welcome this change to a Standards-Based Report Card because it allows us to focus and give information on specific benchmarks rather than an overall letter grade. In individual marking periods there may be some benchmarks that are left blank. This is a result of the district curriculum pacing guides and indicates that benchmark was not an area of focus for that particular marking period. However over the course of the academic year each benchmark will be marked so that the report card is a complete document of your child's academic progress.

A parent companion document has been created to explain the benchmarks and focus areas within each benchmark associated with the grade level expectations for each content area. A review of this document is key in understanding specific information about your child's progress. To access these documents for each grade, please follow the link: <http://gpschools.schoolwires.net/Page/10732>.

While we understand this new report card may be very different from ones you've received in the past it is absolutely necessary because our previous report card did not closely align with the Common Core Standards. Over the last year, a committed and hardworking group of teachers and administrators developed the report card. It is a work in progress as we continue to align our work to the Core standards. We have created an informational video on Standards-Based Report Cards if you would like more information. The video can be found on the district web page and each elementary school home page by following the elementary report card link. Thank you for your continued support as we provide a rich and engaging academic experience for our students.

Sincerely,

Maureen G. Bur

Excellence in Education: Learning and Leading for Today and Tomorrow