

Middletown Township Public Schools

IMPLEMENTATION OF OUR NEW STANDARDS BASED REPORT CARD FOR KINDERGARTEN

The Middletown Township Public Schools is proud to introduce the Standards-Based Report Card for kindergarten students for the 2008-2009 school year. The change to a Standards-Based Report Card comes from the belief that our previous report card did not fully communicate what students are expected to know and be able to do as set forth in the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards.

The new report card will benefit students, teachers and parents/guardians. It will allow students to be more aware of what is expected of them. It will give teachers across the district a better understanding of what each child should know and be able to do at each grade level. It will provide parents with a more detailed outline of the expectations in each of the major academic areas. We believe that your understanding of what is expected of your child and how well he or she is progressing towards the goals at his or her grade level is very important. We look forward to working together to provide your child with the knowledge and tools to be successful and to reach his or her fullest potential.

1. What is Standards-Based grade reporting?

A Standards-Based grade reporting system is designed to inform parents about their children's progress towards achieving specific learning standards. The New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards establish high and challenging performance expectations for all students. They describe what students should know and be able to do, and serve as the basis for the Middletown Public School's curriculum, instruction, and assessment model.

2. Why was the report card changed to the Standards-Based Report Card?

The report card was changed to provide more information to parents about student progress on the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards. On many traditional report cards, students receive one grade for reading, one for math, one for science and so on. On a Standards-Based Report Card, each of these subject areas is divided into a list of skills and knowledge that students are responsible for learning. Students receive a separate mark for each standard.

3. What is the purpose of the new report card?

The purpose of the Standards-based Report Card is to provide more detailed feedback to parents regarding the progress their children are making toward specific learning standards at their grade level. The new report card will allow parents and students to understand more clearly what is expected of students and how to help them be successful in a rigorous academic program.

4. How does the Standards-Based Report Card compare to the letter grade system?

The marks on a Standards-Based Report Card are different from traditional letter grades. Letter grades are often calculated by combining how well the student met his particular teacher's expectations, how he performed on assignments and tests, how much effort the teacher believes he put in, and how he is doing in comparison to his classmates. Letter grades do not tell parents which skills their children have mastered or whether they are working at grade level. The Standards-Based Report Card measures how well an individual student is doing in relation to the grade level standards, not the work of other students. This will give parents a better understanding of their child's strengths and weaknesses and encourage all students to do their best.

5. How can your child exceed the Standards?

Another big change for students is understanding the concept of "advanced" or "exceeding the Standard." Advanced is not necessarily the equivalent of an A on a traditional report card. For example, if a fifth-grader received A's on every math test during the semester, she would probably receive an A on a traditional report card. If those math tests measured only the concepts fifth graders are expected to master, those A's would be the equivalent of "proficient" on a Standards-Based Report Card; the student is doing what he should be doing, but not necessarily more. Standards-Based Report Cards can encourage teachers to make sure their lessons offer students chances to go beyond "grade level."

6. What if I still have questions?

This is meant to be a brief overview of the Standards-Based Report Card. If you have any additional questions or comments please contact your school principal.