

PARKER SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 60-4

Accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools

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Greetings,

The Parker School District is excited to welcome everyone to the 2015-2016 school year and would like to share a new item for the elementary school.

The Parker Elementary School is proud to introduce and implement Standards Based Report Cards this year for grades K-6. While kindergarten and first grades have been utilizing this reporting in the past, it is a change for grades 2-6. This 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 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.

We have answered a few common questions below and will be holding a community meeting to discuss these changes in the near future.

1. What is a standard?

A standard is a statement that identifies what students should know and be able to do in specific areas of education and at their grade level. These standards for each content area and grade level are set by the South Dakota Department of Education and adopted by each school district in South Dakota.

2. What is Standards-Based grade reporting?

A Standards-Based grade reporting system is designed to inform parents about their child's progress towards achieving specific learning standards. The state of South Dakota has adopted clear and concise standards in Reading, Math, Science, and Social Studies for our students. Teachers are constantly teaching, reviewing, and assessing our students in these standards.

3. 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 South Dakota standards the students are expected to know and understand. On a traditional report card, 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 further expanded by a list of skills and knowledge students are responsible for learning. Students receive a separate mark for each indicator.

4. What is the purpose of the Standards-Based report card?

The purpose of the Standards-Based report card is to provide feedback that is more detailed to parents regarding the progress their children are making towards specific content indicators at each grade level. This report card allows parents and students to understand more clearly what is expected at each grade level. With this understanding,

parents will be better able to guide and support their child helping him/her to be successful in a rigorous academic program.

5. How does the Standards-Based report card compare to the traditional letter grade system?

Standards-Based report card reporting is different from traditional letter grade reporting. Letter or numerical grades are often calculated by combining how well the student met a teacher's expectations, how the student performed on assignments and tests, how much effort the teacher believes the student put in and how the student is doing in comparison to classmates. Letter or numeral grades do not tell parents which skills their child has mastered or where he or she is 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 students strengths and weaknesses and the ability to encourage their students in specific areas in order for all students to do their best.

This is new to our district and our teachers. We will be working diligently to put the new report card online for you all to see on DDN Campus, however, it will be a work in progress so please be patient as we continue to try and enhance the learning and growth of your students.

Sincerely,

Dr. Donovan G. DeBoer
Superintendent/Elementary Principal
Parker School District