Elementary school report cards are changing this year

Background and purpose

Chesterfield County Public Schools wants to provide parents with detailed information about their children's academic strengths and opportunities for growth. Our teachers also want to provide equity in grading across all elementary schools. This is important because it better identifies where your child is excelling, as well as where your child might need additional assistance.

A committee of parents, teachers and administrators spent two years reviewing options for better reporting student progress. Teachers on the committee piloted several grading recommendations and sample report cards last school year. The result of their collaborative efforts led to the development of a new report card for elementary school students that will debut in the 2015-2016 school year.

Traditional vs. standards-based report cards

Traditional report cards measured many factors, including how students did in comparison to classmates, how well they behaved and the effort they put into their work. Students received a single letter grade. A standards-based report card measures how well a student is doing in relation to the standards and skills identified in Virginia's Standards of Learning. Chesterfield County Public Schools is moving to a standards-based report card. Students will receive an overall indication of progress and specific updates on individual skills that must be demonstrated according to the standards.

Grades K-1 number scale

4 = Student's performance exceeds standard/ expectation, and student consistently produces outstanding work.

3 = Student's performance meets standard/ expectation, and student consistently produces quality work.

2 = Student's performance is approaching standard/ expectation, and student inconsistently applies learned skills.

1 = Student's performance is below standard/ expectation, and student frequently requires re-teaching.

NA = This skill or concept was not assessed during this grading period.

Grades 2-5 grade range

A = 90-100 — excellent

B = 80-89 — very good

C = 70-79 — satisfactory

D = 60-69 — minimal progress

F = below 60 — failing

Grades 2-5 number scale

4 = Student's performance exceeds standard/expectation, and student consistently produces outstanding work.

3 = Student's performance meets standard/expectation, and student consistently produces quality work.

2 = Student's performance is approaching standard/expectation, and student inconsistently applies learned skills.

1 = Student's performance is below standard/expectation, and student frequently requires re-teaching.

NA = This skill or concept was not assessed during this grading period.

Will behavior still be addressed?

Behaviors that make a respectful, responsible 21st-century learner will be reported separately but will not affect the way academic progress is reported. Self-management and responsibility are two areas — along with critical thinking, communication, collaboration and technology literacy — that will be assessed using a 1-4 scale.

How do the new report cards differ from the old ones?

Each report card is unique to the standards taught at that grade level; kindergarten and first-grade report cards are similar as are report cards for grades 2-5. **Grades K-1** will receive a number score indicating their progress during that marking period. In **Grades 2-5**, a traditional letter grade (A-F) will be used for each core subject and a number scale will be used to share progress in each of the areas listed underneath each core subject. Details about letter grades and number scales are printed at the bottom of this page.

How will progress in the resource areas be reported?

Progress in art, music, physical education and world language (in schools where a world language is offered) will be reported using the 1-4 scale.

If I have a question, whom should I contact?

Contact your child's teacher or principal or email ccpsinfo@ccpsnet.net.

Chesterfield County Public Schools

mychesterfieldschools.com

ccpsinfo@ccpsnet.net

Chesterfield County Public Schools

mychesterfieldschools.com
804-639-8915

September 2015 • third grade

This brochure explains why report cards are changing and shows what third-grade report cards will look like starting this fall.

Dear parents and guardians,

While your family enjoyed a well-earned summer break, Chesterfield County Public Schools was busy preparing for the start of the 2015-16 school year and planning additional ways to support students as they move toward successful futures.

As you most likely know, elementary report cards will change this fall. This change will enable teachers to provide parents with a clearer understanding of students' strengths and weaknesses and areas where parents can provide additional support at home. A brochure with a sample new report card was included with your child's final 2014-15 report card.

The purpose of report cards is to accurately and clearly communicate student achievement to parents, informing them about learning successes and areas in need of improvement. The new standards-based report card accurately reflects what students are learning in academic areas and shows the work-related skills they are developing.

Included as part of this brochure is a third-grade report card. Please review this report card and discuss it with your child, so that everyone is prepared for the start of the 2015-16 school year. Additional information will be available during back-to-school night, as well as during parent-teacher conferences in November. If you have questions in the meantime, contact your child's principal or visit mychesterfieldschools.com and click on grading practices in the hot topics section.

Welcome back, and best wishes for a wonderful school year!

Sincerely,

Linda Wood   Dr. Cyndee Blount
Directors of Elementary Education

Work-Related Skills

	Grading Period			
	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
Critical Thinking	4	3	4	3
• Demonstrates problem-solving strategies and complex thinking				
• Applies previous learning to a new situation				
• Uses appropriate resources for a product				
Responsibility	3	4	3	4
• Follows directions				
• Plans, organizes and completes assignments/homework				
• Demonstrates respect toward self, others and property				
Collaboration	4	3	4	3
• Demonstrates conflict-resolution skills				
• Works cooperatively with others in a variety of settings				
Communication	3	4	3	4
• Demonstrates ability to communicate effectively for a variety of purposes				
• Provides relevant contributions to the class				
• Demonstrates listening skills and asks questions to clarify understanding				
Self-Management	4	3	4	3
• Produces quality work in a timely fashion				
• Sets achievable goals and reviews progress				
• Demonstrates self-control and transitions appropriately between activities				
Technology Literacy	3	4	3	4
• Effectively uses available technology tools				
• Practices safe, legal and responsible use of information and technology				

Teacher Comments

First Grading Period

Second Grading Period

Third Grading Period

Fourth Grading Period

Parent Signature_____ Date_____ ☐ Parent-Teacher Conference Requested

Grade Placement for Next School Year ☐ Promoted to Grade_____ ☐ Retained