

October 2013

Dear Cox Mill Elementary Families:

Our school year is well underway and we are excited about the learning taking place in our classrooms everyday. Elementary parent conferences will begin in the next couple of weeks with report cards being distributed on October 28. Conferences as well as report cards provide an opportunity to strengthen our home and school partnership and to discuss ideas for supporting each child's ongoing learning and success.

This year, we are excited about using a new report card at our elementary schools. This new report card is referred to as a Standards-Based Report Card. You will notice many differences with this document, including the focus on grade-level standards.

The purpose of the Standards-Based Report Card is to provide specific feedback regarding the progress students are making toward grade-level standards. The information below gives you a quick explanation of standards and how they are used to provide you with information on your child's progress during the school year.

Standards: Each grade level has very specific curriculum standards, aligned to the Common Core State Standards and the North Carolina Essential Standards, that students are expected to demonstrate by the end of the school year. Each standard identifies what students should know and be able to do. When we share your child's academic progress using standards, we are providing important and specific information about learning successes and areas of needed improvement. The score reported will be determined strictly on the child's level of mastery of the standard. Academic achievement is evaluated using a standards-based score of 4 (Exceeds Grade-Level Standard), 3 (Meets Grade-Level Standard), 2 (Progressing toward Grade-Level Standard), and 1 (Limited Progress toward Grade-Level Standard).

The expectation is that all students will master the standards by the end of the school year. Therefore, there may be standards for which your child receives a 2 – Progressing toward Grade-Level Standard - during the first couple of quarters. Because it is the beginning of the year, this means that your child is making progress toward the end of the year standard, so there is no need for concern. Our goal is that every child receive a mark of 3 – Meets Grade-Level Standard - by the end of the year for each of the standards listed. This score indicates that your child is on target for his or her grade level and should be celebrated.

We are excited about the information this new type of reporting will provide to parents and students. By implementing a Standards-Based Report Card, we are able to provide more detailed information about your child's successes and areas for improvement.

The report cards are available on the website for your reference. If you have questions about the report cards, please contact our office or your child's teacher. We appreciate your support and look forward to the continued opportunity to work with you to maximize the potential of your child and all students at Cox Mill Elementary.

Sincerely,

Alison Moore  
Principal