



*Dr. Victor Simon III, Superintendent*

*Rebecca Laratta, EdS, Asst. Superintendent*

November 2019

Dear Parents,

This fall, Gower West will be implementing changes to its trimester report cards in grades K-4. The report card is aligned to the Common Core Standards (CCSS) and reflects our curriculum and instruction based on these standards. Highlights to this report card:

- Titles and descriptions tied directly to the CCSS.
- Grading key correlates to student progress in meeting the standards (1-3 scale).
- Non-academic indicators - Learner Behaviors (1-3 scale)
- Learning goals are clear. Teachers concentrate on teaching essential standards that every student must learn. Each lesson that is taught is connected to a standard and progress is monitored toward meeting the learning targets.

**How have the report cards changed?**

The new grade level report card lists the most important skills students should learn in each subject at a particular grade level.

The marks on the new report cards are different from year's past. Grades are often calculated by combining how well a student met his/her particular teacher's expectations, how he/she performed on assignments, tests, and how much effort the teacher believes they put in. Oftentimes traditional grading does not inform parents which skills their child has mastered or whether they are working at grade level.

**How are the new report cards more helpful?**

The new report cards provide parents and students with specific information about how they are progressing and targets where they need to improve.

The new report card also clearly defines the standards to parents. Parents know exactly what their child should be able to do. The report card is based directly on the standards, although not every standard is listed on the report card. Parents are directed to view the accompanying Report Card Resource Document to understand what skills are included in each strand. This document, for each grade level, can be found on the Gower West website.

**How will parents interpret the skills outlined in their child's report card?**

Each skill is measured and aligned to the Board approved curricular programs and teacher created curriculum maps that specifically outlines and identifies expectations for each skill at that time in the year.

Standards are for the end of the year. In the first two marking periods markings reflect the pace at which students are moving toward standards. A "3" in November does not mean your child has already met standards, but is on track to meet the standards by the end of the year. A "3" in June means your child has met the end-of-year standards.

Level	Indicators for Learner Behaviors
3	Proficient - Consistently meets expectations
2	Progressing - Inconsistently meets expectations
1	Area of Concern



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Level	Indicators for Academic Areas
3	Proficient - Demonstrates consistent understanding of grade level standards.
2	Progressing - Demonstrates inconsistent understanding of grade level standards.
1	Area of Concern - Demonstrates an insufficient understanding of grade level standards.
IE	Insufficient evidence to assess at this time
X	Not assessed at this time

**When do we use IE (Insufficient evidence to assess at this time)**

- When a student was absent for a significant number of days
- In any situation where a student has not yet completed the assessments required for the teacher to confidently determine level of proficiency

**When do we use X (Not Assessed at this time)**

- When the teacher has taught the content, but hasn't yet fully assessed that content, or hasn't yet taught the content in its entirety. However, these standards will be introduced before the end of the school year.
- When the teacher has not taught or assessed understanding of the content (this could apply to some students or all students in a class depending on the situation)

We hope you have found this information to be helpful. We look forward to informative discussions on your child's progress. For additional parent information on the Common Core State Standards, please visit our website at [www.gower62.com](http://www.gower62.com). On the District page see the Curriculum and scroll down to Additional Information. On the Additional Information you can find a link to the Common Core State Standards and to Report Card Resources.

Sincerely,

Gina Rodewald, Principal