



ELON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

2016-17 STANDARDS BASED GRADING



WHAT IS STANDARDS BASED GRADING?

Standards Based Grading is a system of reporting your child's progress based on the North Carolina curriculum standards. The reporting shifts away from the traditional letter grades to a rating scale specific to the standards.

"Grades" are earned by completing the same type of work students have always done – projects, reports, tests, etc. The difference is that teachers will evaluate on the understanding of the standards and not areas such as responsibility, due dates or other nonstandard areas credit is given for in a traditional grading system.

WHAT ABOUT NON-ACADEMIC FACTORS?

Standards based grades are only one component of the report card. We know it is critically important to build the total child in terms of work habits along with learning the required curriculum. The responsibilities will be evaluated separately with rating given in the areas of responsibility, behavior, participation, organization, etc.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE?

The purpose is for us to become more transparent with how we are evaluating student learning and to better inform you as the parent on how you can help in areas of struggle and reinforce areas of strength. It will bring consistency with teachers on how we are gauging student learning and responding with differentiated instruction that is specifically designed for your child to have success.



REPORT CARD

There will be a new report card in the 16-17 school year to reflect student progress. Parent conferences will be

set up to review and explain the organization of the report with first quarter progress reports. It is very easy to read with work habits, attendance and specials on one side; core academics and comments on the other side. The format will be the same for all grade levels and include a page describing the specific standards for that grade level. Please see the sample on the back of this flyer along with important 2016-17 dates.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE?

Traditional Report Card

- Indirect credit – a mix of practice, homework, test scores, responsibility and team projects
- Loss of points if late or incomplete
- Arbitrary and vary from teacher to teacher
- Homework is one size fits all
- Antiquated practice

Standards Based Report Card

- Direct credit reflecting level of mastery of the standards being taught each quarter
- Academic achievement only – work habits are evaluated separately
- Consistent among teachers
- Aligned with evidences of student work
- Homework is direct practice
- Research based practice

HOW WILL MY CHILD BE ASSESSED?

Teachers will continue with many of the same approaches for student assessment; including opportunities for practice, homework, tests, quizzes, and projects, etc. The difference you will see is that the work chosen will be more aligned with state standards. Work and assignments will be more specific to the needs of each child with planning based on their needs.

Formal evaluations will be included in the grade of student mastery of standards including: direct observation, post tests, projects, and reports.

Informal evaluations will *guide* the instruction but not necessarily combine with other areas to inform the report card, including: pretests, homework, quizzes, practice activities, as well as areas of work habits and responsibilities.

THINK ABOUT THIS...

What is the difference between an A+ and a B-? In a traditional system it could mean many things between teachers, students and parents. In a standards based system, there is no in-between. Students demonstrate they understand the concept – "mastery"; are making progress toward mastery, or not yet making progress in relation to a specific area of the curriculum. What could be more clear?

RESEARCHERS

Robert Marzano	Rick Wormeli
Ken O'Connor	Thomas Guskey
Myron Dueck	John Hattie