Oak Park Elementary School District 97 values the strong partnerships we have with our families, and understands the critical role they play in improving teaching and learning for all students. These partnerships will be even more important as we adopt the Common Core State Standards, which set high expectations for what every child should know and be able to accomplish. One of the steps we have taken to help our parents/guardians better understand the correlation between student progress and the standards is to implement a new standards-based report card in our elementary schools. This report card will feature a detailed assessment of how a student’s performance aligns with Common Core, and offer information about behaviors that contribute to each child’s growth and development. We believe it will serve as a valuable resource we can use together to better support student learning.

Dr. Albert G. Roberts, Superintendent

Report Card Distribution for the 2013-14 School Year

1st Trimester – Friday, December 6, 2013
2nd Trimester – Friday, March 14, 2014
3rd Trimester – Wednesday, June 4, 2014
The Common Core State Standards have been adopted by 45 states nationwide. The standards are designed to be robust and relevant to the real world, and reflect the skills and knowledge young people need to be better prepared for college and their careers.

**Why change the report card?**

The new report card will provide our families with more detailed and accurate information about the progress their children are making toward meeting the Common Core State Standards for their grade level. It will also continue to offer valuable insight on each student’s developmental abilities and performance in relation to the specific learning standards for each subject. We will periodically review our reporting practices to measure their effectiveness, and make any necessary improvements to ensure we are meeting the needs of our students. Teachers will also continue to receive professional development in the areas of standards-based grading and reporting.

**What is different?**

Instead of receiving one grade per content area, a student’s performance will be broken down by the standard. This will enable our staff and our families to measure children’s academic progress according to grade-level standards, as well as identify areas of academic strength and opportunities for improvement. Teachers will also design multiple assessment tasks, and collect evidence of student learning (teacher observations, student work samples, projects, tests, quizzes, district assessments, etc.) throughout the grading period. They will review this evidence when grading student progress for the report card.
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What is different?

Performance Descriptors

(EX) **Exceeds**: The student consistently demonstrates independent mastery of the grade level standard. The student grasps, applies, and extends processes and skills for the grade level with relative ease.

(PR) **Proficient**: The student demonstrates understanding of the grade level standard and can apply concepts in a variety of contexts.

(AP) **Approaching Proficient**: The student is beginning to, occasionally does, or meets the grade level standard with assistance. The student is beginning to grasp and apply key processes and skills for their grade level, but produces work that contains some errors.

(NP) **Not Proficient**: The student is not meeting the grade level standard, even with assistance. The student demonstrates a limited understanding of the grade level standard and produces work that contains many errors.

* EX does not apply to kindergarten

To date, the Common Core State Standards have been adopted for English Language Arts and Mathematics. While students are not expected to be fully proficient in the standards during the first and second trimesters, they are expected to achieve this goal by the end of the school year.
Parents/guardians are encouraged to contact their child’s classroom teacher if they have questions about the Common Core State Standards and our new standards-based report card.

Oak Park Elementary School District 97
970 W. Madison St.
Oak Park, IL  60302
www.op97.org

December 2013