

### Why trimesters?

Because the data collection and information teachers will gather is so comprehensive, we have transitioned to a trimester system for reporting grades. This will provide ample time for teachers and students to work together and for teachers to have the ability to fully document your child's progress. As always, please continue to communicate with your child's teacher in between conferences and report card times to monitor your child's progress in the classroom.

Based on a trimester system, report card distribution takes place on the following dates:

- December 16, 2019
- March 24, 2020
- June 19, 2020

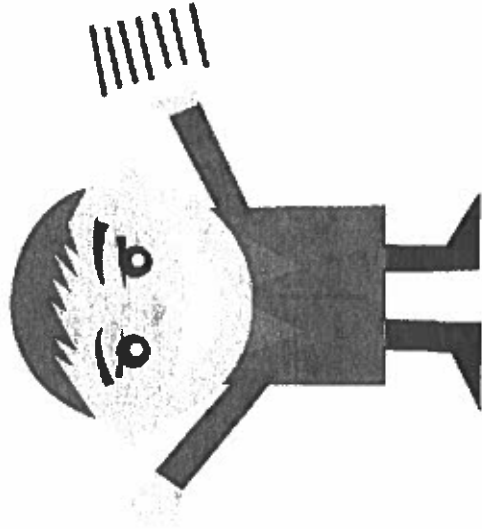
*Parent-Teacher Conferences will take place the week of December 16.*

### Need more information?

- Julie Lyons, Director of Elementary Education, will be available at all Back to School Nights to answer additional questions.
- *Coming Soon!* View a sample of the report card, this letter, and other related information (such as Math & ELA rubrics) on our district website (through "Curriculum" link).

# A GUIDE TO

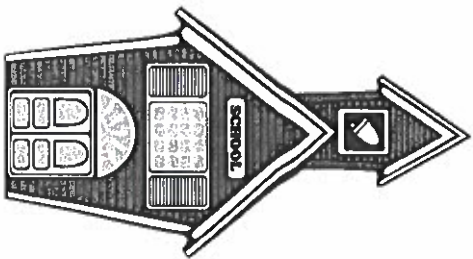
# Standards-Based Report Cards (K-4)



**WATERFORD  
TOWNSHIP SCHOOL  
DISTRICT**

## What is a Standards-Based Report Card?

A standards-based report card communicates a student's progress toward meeting end-of-year learning standards. Teachers assess performance against these learning standards, which are specific and observable grade-level skills articulated in the Waterford Township School District curriculum.



The Waterford Township Standards-Based Report Card reflects the New Jersey Student Learning Standards, and this report card will keep parents, teachers, and students focused on the desired year-end learning goals.

## Why Standard-Based Report Cards?

In 2016, the state of New Jersey transitioned to the New Jersey Student Learning Standards, a set of standards that specifically outlines what students should know and be able to do by the end of each grade level. In order to fully communicate a student's achievement with respect to those standards, it was important to shift from a traditional grading system to one that more accurately recognizes students' strengths, as well as identifying areas in need of improvement.

## How will teachers determine scores?

Teachers will collect information throughout the trimester, using information such as:

- Benchmark assessments
- Running records
- Work on the Personal Math Trainer (Go Math!)
- Word work
- Writing pieces
- Performance on tests and quizzes
- Projects
- Student observations
- Notes from individual conferences with students
- Classwork and homework

## What grading key / assessment scales will be used?

For academic standards, the following scale will be used:

- **EX:** Exceeds: Exceeding grade-level standard for trimester
- **MS:** Meeting Standard: Meeting grade level standard for trimester
- **PR:** Progressing: Progressing toward grade-level standard for trimester
- **NI:** Needs Improvement: Demonstrating minimal or no progress and is at risk for not meeting grade-level standard for trimester

## For Fountas & Pinnell Reading Levels:

- Teachers assess students' instructional reading levels on a scale of AA-Z throughout the year.
- This information will appear in the ELA section of the report card, and a graphic at the top of the report card will indicate the goals for reading levels within each grade level.

## For Social Development, Work Habits & Fine Motor Skills:

- An "X" indicates that this is an area of concern

Note: For students receiving interventions, and/or other levels of support, this level of support will appear under the ELA and Math headings.