
What other information is on the report card?

The report card also provides information on student effort and conduct. These are assessed and reported in a separate section.

There is also space for teacher comments each reporting period.

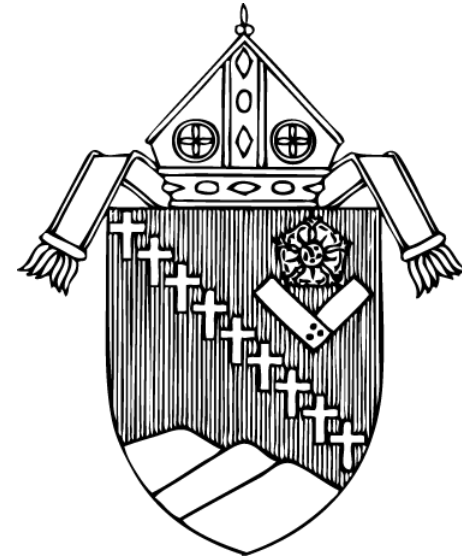
What should I do if I have questions about my child's progress or about the marks on the report card?

Teachers can explain the report card more thoroughly. Any time you have a question about your child's schoolwork, you should contact the teacher directly. Remember that it is best to make an appointment so that you and the teacher will have the time you need to focus on the conversation.

Your child's teacher will share information about your child's progress in a number of ways. Student work and progress reports are sent home for parents to review. Parent-teacher conferences are held regularly.



Standards Based Report Cards: What Parents Need to Know



DIocese OF SAN JOSE
AUGUST 2013

Why does the Diocese of San Jose use standards based report cards in grades K-5?

Standards based report cards give a more accurate and more detailed report of a student's academic progress. Because concrete skills and knowledge are listed on this report card, students and parents receive specific information about the student's learning. This report card helps parents understand more clearly what is expected of students and how to help them be successful in school.

What are standards?

Standards are statements about what students should know and be able to do. There are standards for each subject area. Instruction in the Diocese of San Jose has been aligned to the California state content area standards and the Diocese of San Jose religion outcomes for a number of years. The learning targets identified on the report cards come from these standards and outcomes.

What is the difference between traditional letter grades and standards based reporting?

Letter grades are determined by averaging scores on different assignments or by comparing one student's performance to another student's.

Standards based report cards provide specific information about the actual skills and concepts a student has mastered. These report cards report how well an individual student is doing in relation to the grade level standards. The marks have nothing to do with an average of scores or the work of other students.

What are some other advantages of standards based report cards?

Standards based report cards give students and parents explicit and clear information about what students should know, do, and understand to help them be successful at that grade level. The report card can function as a sort of map of the expected student learning for the year, highlighting the major learning targets. These report cards can help ensure that the curriculum is rigorous in all classrooms.

Assessing student progress towards meeting a particular standard helps the teacher plan lessons so that appropriate remediation and enrichment can be given to each student.

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What does the standards based report card look like?

Each new report card is unique to its grade level because it identifies learning targets for that grade.

Instead of receiving one grade for each subject, students receive a number of marks reporting progress towards mastery of skills and knowledge within that subject. Student progress is reported by using the following marks:

- 1 **Below** making limited progress to end of year grade level standards
- 2 **Approaching** end of year grade level standards
- 3 **Meeting** end of year standards
- 4 **Exceeding** end of year grade level standards

Not every standard will be introduced and not every standard will be assessed each marking period, so two additional marks can be used:

- X** not introduced
- NA** not assessed

How do these marks compare with traditional grades?

They really can't be compared. A "4" is not an "A".

The goal is for the student to be at a "3" at the end of the year for each standard. This would indicate that he or she has met the end of the year targets. Because learning is a process that occurs over time, we would expect to see many 2's in the first reporting periods and mostly 3's at the end.

How will teachers determine the marks?

Teachers will review student work and evaluate progress towards meeting the standards. There are many kinds of assessments that teachers use to evaluate student progress including tests, quizzes, other written work, student projects, reading inventories, observations, etc.

