

# Hawthorne Elementary School

## Mt. Pleasant Central School District

225 Memorial Drive  
Hawthorne, NY 10532  
Telephone: (914) 769-8536  
Fax: (914) 769-8527

Ms. Anne Stern  
Principal  
Email: [astern@mtplcsd.org](mailto:astern@mtplcsd.org)

Ms. Theresa Outhouse  
Assistant Principal  
Email: [touthouse@mtplcsd.org](mailto:touthouse@mtplcsd.org)

Dear Parents,

The Mount Pleasant Central School District uses a standards-based report card to communicate student performance relative to NYS and District standards. The report card contains detailed information about your child's classroom experiences and provides a basis for parents and teachers to collaborate to support student learning.

The standards-based report card:

- provides descriptive and specific feedback
- rates each standard separately without an averaged grade
- uses the same rating scale for behavior and academics
- includes a comment section where teachers share anecdotal information

Please see the FAQs below regarding the standards-based report card. Please contact your child's teacher if you have specific questions about your child's report card.

### **DOES A STANDARDS-BASED REPORT CARDS USE GRADES?**

A standards-based report card uses performance indicators. These indicators describe a student's progress along a continuum of learning. Performance indicators are not based on letter grades, a numerical average or a composite score of effort and numerical grades. They are based on a student's progress and performance towards the New York State and District-established standards.

### **ARE THE PERFORMANCE INDICATORS THE SAME AS LETTER GRADES?**

No. They are based on a student's progress and performance towards the standards.

## WHAT ARE THE PERFORMANCE INDICATORS?

<b>Performance Indicators for NYS and District Grade-Level Standards</b>
<b>E = Exceeding</b> (The student's understanding and application of learning/behavior is beyond what is expected for the grade-level standard)
<b>M = Meeting</b> (The student consistently demonstrates understanding and application of learning/behavior at the grade-level standard)
<b>A = Approaching</b> (The student demonstrates partial understanding and application of learning/behavior at the grade-level standard)
<b>N = Not Yet Approaching</b> (The student demonstrates limited understanding and application of learning/behavior at the grade-level standard)
<b>* = Not Assessed at this Time</b> (The standard has not been assessed during this trimester)

## WILL THE ASSESSMENT OF EACH STANDARD BE BASED ON A TEST?

The assessment of each standard can take many forms including in class assignments, quizzes, tests, homework, projects, and teacher observations.

## ARE ALL OF THE NEW YORK STATE AND DISTRICT ESTABLISHED STANDARDS REPRESENTED ON THE REPORT CARD?

No. A team of teachers K-5 worked to identify standards that represent key learning at each grade level. These standards are considered most significant for student learning in each subject area.

## CAN A STUDENT'S PERFORMANCE BE RATED AS EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS DURING ONE TRIMESTER AND MEETING EXPECTATIONS IN THE FOLLOWING TRIMESTER?

Yes. Expectations for student learning change over the course of the year. Students are not expected to meet all grade level standards at the beginning of the year. As expectations change, student learning is measured against increased expectations.

For example, for the first trimester of kindergarten, if a student is able to identify 21 or more letter sounds, his or her performance exceeds expectations and the report card would indicate this with an E. For the second trimester, we expect students to know 21-25 letter sounds in order to meet expectations. If the same student is able to identify 25 letter sounds, the report card would indicate that this student is meeting second trimester expectations and an M would appear on the report card.

If a student's performance indicator rating goes from exceeding to meeting expectations, it does not necessarily indicate a decrease in skill or a lack of growth.

## **WHAT ABOUT ENCORE SPECIALS?**

Encore Special Areas (Music, Math Exploration, Health and Wellness) are graded during the second and third trimester. Encore Special Areas (Art, Science Lab, Library, and Computer Lab) are graded only in the third trimester. Encore Special classes that are not graded will have an N/A.

## **WHAT IF I HAVE A QUESTION ABOUT MY CHILD'S PROGRESS?**

At any time, if you have questions about your child's progress, please contact the classroom teacher. If you have questions about specific standards, your child's teacher can explain the assessments that are used determine performance.

Thank you for taking the time to review this information. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Anne Stern



