

Dear Parents and Guardians,

While we have been using a standards-based report card with a rating scale of 4-1, (rather than the A-F scale that we were all accustomed to), we would like to share our thinking in interpreting your child's scores as we have spent much time calibrating these scores across classrooms and across grade levels.

Each of our grade level teams has Trimester Expectations in reading, writing and math for each of the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> trimesters and it is against these expectations that students are scored.

We want all of our students to try to "be a 3." Students earning a 3 are meeting grade level trimester expectations and all is good. Students with 3s are deserving of praise!

A 4 denotes that the student is performing at least 1 full school year above grade level expectation consistently and independently, and this is quite extraordinary! **A student who earns a 4 in a content standard is exceptional.** Know that there are a handful of standards that simply don't allow for a 4, such as Letter Recognition (you either know the letters or you don't), or Numbers & Operations (you either know the facts or you don't).

Students earning a 2 are making progress towards meeting grade level trimester expectations, but aren't quite there. These are students who perhaps need a boost and are likely candidates for RTI assistance.

Students earning a 1 are not meeting grade level trimester expectations and are definitely in need of additional support.

As a parent, guardian, or one invested in the academic progress of a student, you should pay close attention to your child's effort scores. These are scored on a 3 point scale, (E = excellent, G = Good and N = Needs Improvement.) Es depict students who are truly investing themselves in their own achievement and are truly deserving of praise. Gs are doing that which is expected and right on track. Ns in effort depict students who are not putting in the work necessary to be successful and are definitely in need of additional support or external motivation.

I hope you find this easy to understand and useful. As always, if you have any concerns please do let us know. You may call or write us a note or an email.

Yours in Education,