

West Orange Public Schools

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**Assistant Superintendent for
Curriculum and Instruction**

Mrs. Eveny de Mendez

June 3, 2020

Dear Elementary Parents and Guardians,

I hope this communication continues to find you and your families healthy, safe, and well as we approach the final weeks of E-Learning and the close of the 2019-2020 academic school year.

Our students, parents and staff have demonstrated unparalleled resiliency during the most trying of times. Overwhelming concerns around the safety, health and well-being of our families, instruction marked by self-directed learning and student independence levels, and myriad circumstances that directly impact teaching and learning across the district have been critical factors in our decision making around grading and the elementary report card.

Earlier in the E-Learning process, the district announced that it would move to a Pass / Fail grading system for Kindergarten through Grade 5. Further and careful consideration of the extenuating circumstances that control the ways in which students are able to demonstrate proficiency have led us to modify this approach. Some of these considerations include the fact that many of our elementary students were without technology for the first weeks of the school closures. Systems had to be developed for collecting assignments from our youngest learners and significant thought had to be given to how we accurately measure and report grade level proficiency when self-guided learning and independence are skills yet being developed at the elementary grade levels.

In response:

- A Revised E-Learning Report Card was developed to better reflect student engagement with the content via the e-learning platforms used across the district.
- Content area strands were simplified to better align to those areas being implemented and assessed via E-Learning.
- Failing grades have been eliminated from the elementary report card.

Instructional Key

Instead, for the 3rd Trimester Report Card in Grades K-5, the instructional key representing a students' grade will be represented as follows:

- **Meets** Student consistently meets grade level standards and expectations. Student performance is characterized by the ability to apply grade level concepts, skills, and understanding, as demonstrated by their E-Learning experience.
- **Approaches** Student is progressing in understanding, however, grade level concepts and skills are not yet mastered. Student requires additional practice and support in order to meet proficient levels of understanding, as demonstrated by their E-Learning experience.
- **Not Evaluated** Not evaluated at this time. Student did not submit E-Learning assignments and/or sufficiently engage in work related to this area.

The 3rd Trimester E-Learning Report card gives careful consideration to a student's performance, not only in this final trimester, but to his/her performance for the first two marking periods, in order to provide parents with a holistic view of the academic year.

Descriptive Indicators

Alongside each grade, parents will find indicators that specifically describe student performance as it relates to the area being measured.

For example, the indicator for a student rating of MEETS in the area of Reading Comprehension would read:

“Consistently reads grade-level text with purpose and understanding.”

Teacher Comments

Teacher Comments are another feature of the E-Learning report card, where teachers may share specific details with parents regarding their students' engagement with the content through E-learning.

ELL Insert

A specific insert for our English Language Learners has been developed for ESL teachers to report their individual progress and these will be available to students and parents in English, Spanish and Creole.

Grading Timelines

June 12th. This will be the last day teachers will assign students work to submit toward their grade. Parents should communicate with their child and teachers to ensure that all work has been submitted by this date.

June 19th. E-Learning report cards will be sent to parents via email (as was the practice with the 2nd trimester). For families that do not have access to the internet, report cards will be mailed home.

It should be noted that the E-Learning report card was developed solely to record and communicate a student's progress via online instruction and may not be used upon return to “in person” instruction.

SAMPLE GRADE 4 E-Learning Report Card (Grades K-5)

West Orange Public Schools E-Learning Report Card 2019-2020 Grade 4 - 3rd Trimester		
Student Name		School
Grade Level	4th	Homeroom Teacher
INSTRUCTIONAL KEY	Meets	Student consistently meets grade level standards and expectations. Student performance is characterized by the ability to apply grade level concepts, skills, and understanding, as demonstrated by their E-Learning experience.
	Approaches	Student is progressing in understanding, however, grade level concepts and skills are not yet mastered. Student requires additional practice and support in order to meet proficient levels of understanding, as demonstrated by their E-Learning experience.
	Not Evaluated	Not evaluated at this time. Student did not submit E-Learning assignments and/or sufficiently engage in work related to this area.
ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS		
READING Grade	Indicators	
Comprehension Meets	Consistently reads grade-level text with purpose and understanding.	
WRITING		
Process Meets	Consistently strengthens writing by planning, revising, and editing.	
Conventions Meets	Consistently applies grade-level writing conventions of punctuation, capitalization, and grammar usage.	
MATHEMATICS		
Grade	Indicators	
Number & Operations - Fractions Meets	Student can apply and extend previous understandings of multiplication to multiply a fraction by a whole number.	
Operations & Algebraic Thinking Meets	Student can determine if a given whole number in the range of 1-100, is a multiple of a given one-digit number.	
Number & Operations in Base Ten Meets	Student can multiply a whole number of up to four digits by a one-digit whole number, and multiply two, two-digit numbers and find whole number quotients and remainders with up to four-digit dividends and one-digit divisors.	
Measurement & Data Meets	Student can solve number stories involving metric units of length involving simple fractions or decimals.	
Geometry Meets	Student can draw, represent and identify angles, including right, acute and obtuse angles.	

SCIENCE		
	Grade	Indicators
Understanding of Scientific Principles	Meets	Consistently understands core ideas in physical science, life science, and Earth and space science; accurately explains scientific principles; and readily identifies examples of scientific principles in nature.
Application of Scientific Principles	Meets	Consistently and accurately applies scientific principles, accurately uses models to explain phenomena, creates arguments from evidence, and extends scientific principles to new situations.
SOCIAL STUDIES		
	Grade	Indicators
Historic and Civic Related Concepts	Meets	Can identify as well as understand social studies and civic related concepts. The student has the ability to connect social studies and civic related concepts to other academic subjects as well as real world applications. The student has the ability to analyze as well as examine differing points of view (if applicable).
Interpretation of Social Studies Resources	Meets	Has the ability to interpret maps, charts, symbols and tables correctly. Has the ability to use social studies resources to reach accurate conclusions.
HEALTH EDUCATION		
	Grade	Indicators
Health Concepts	Meets	Exhibits awareness of health concepts
PHYSICAL EDUCATION		
	Grade	Indicators
Physical Education & Fitness Concepts	Meets	Demonstrates an understanding of physical education and fitness concepts
ART		
	Grade	Indicators
Creative Process	Meets	Demonstrates effort in most or all online art activities and tasks
Work of Art Presentations	Meets	Demonstrates effort in most or all online art activities and tasks
MUSIC		
	Grade	Indicators
General Music	Meets	Demonstrates understanding in most or all of the required music experiences
Instrumental Music	Meets	Demonstrates understanding in most or all of the required music literacy assignments
WORLD LANGUAGE		
	Grade	Indicators
Production of Language	Meets	Demonstrates ability to produce language targets.
Comprehension of Language	Meets	Demonstrates ability to comprehend language targets.
TEACHER COMMENTS		

Honors Program

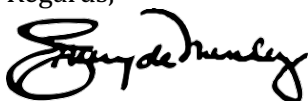
For rising 6th grade students, the honors criteria remain the same as all assessments were completed prior to the school closures. This includes the prior year's NJSLA, Fall MAP, Grades Trimesters 1 and 2, and Teacher Recommendation. Parents of eligible students can expect to receive acceptance letters by the end of June. Testing for students who did not meet the initial criteria will take place late in the summer after social distancing guidelines for reopening of schools have been established by Governor Murphy. An appeals process will also be in place.

Gifted & Talented Program

All students who are currently in the Gifted and Talented Program will remain in the program for the 2020-2021 school year. New entrants into the G&T program for grades 3-5 will be determined by the prior year's NJSLA, Fall MAP, NNAT / InView Assessments, and Teacher Recommendation / Inventories. Parents of eligible students can expect to receive acceptance letters by early August. An appeals process will also be in place.

If you have any questions, kindly reach out to your child's teacher and/or principal. I wish you and your families continued safety and health.

Regards,



Evelyn de Mendez
Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction