

Principal
Dr. Lisa McMahon
lmcmahon@slrsd.org



Assistant Principal
Richard Cochran
rcochran@slrsd.org

KINGSTON INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

65 Second Brook Street Kingston, MA 02364
781.585.0472 Fax 781.585.0053

December 6, 2010

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Enclosed is a copy of your child's Standard Based Report Card for Term One. This report card has your child's progress presented in a concise manner. Our district continues to use a web-based student information system known as Power School. This allows the teachers to directly input student data on to a computer generated report card. This is such a wonderful advancement for our schools as we continue to incorporate technology in the many facets of our reporting system.

The purpose of a Standard-Based Report Card is to measure how well your child is doing in relation to the grade level standards, not the work of other students. The standards are on a continuum. Therefore the hope is that the students learn the standards for their grade level by the end of a school year. Each student has been graded on what has been taught in each standard for this term. However, the concepts and skills of those standards will be repeated and expanded upon as the year progresses.

As you read through the Standard-Based Report Card you will notice it gives you a wealth of information about your child's academic performance. The standards that the students are graded on are closely aligned to the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks and the newly adopted Common Core State Standards. Your child will receive a numeric grade based on the standard ratings which are located and explained in the first column of the report card. A **4** is the highest rating a child can earn. A rating of **4** indicates that the child has an advanced understanding of the concepts and skills and consistently **exceeds the expectations**. A child who earns a **3** **meets the standard**. The child is performing proficiently and applies skills with consistent accuracy and independence. A rating of **2** denotes that your child is **working toward the standard**. The child understands basic concepts and is working towards proficiency with the standards, but improvement is still needed with practice and support. A child earning a **1** is **below the standard**. The child is illustrating a minimal understanding of the concepts and can not yet work independently. Performance requires frequent teacher direction, support and assistance to learn and use information. An **X** indicates that a skill is not being assessed at this time.

As you review the entire report card you will see that the Social Skill and Behavior, Work Habits, and Effort ratings have just a slight difference this year. The rating of an **E** will stand for Excellent Performance, an **S** will stand for Satisfactory Performance, an **IN** will stand for Inconsistent Performance, and a **U** will stand for Unsatisfactory Performance

As you may already know, our special subject teachers Art, Music, and Physical Education will also be grading each child using the standard ratings on the Standard Based Report Card. Each child will receive a grade each term for these subjects.

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It is very important to understand that there is no A, B, C, or D grade attached to these standard ratings nor should we try to equate them in that way. The goal of a Standard-Based Report Card is to give the status of how well a child is meeting the standards of their grade level. The overarching goal is to have all students meet the standards of their grade level by the end of the school year. If you are interested in finding the standards, you can locate them on the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education website. Here you will find Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks for each grade level. (www.doe.mass.edu)

If you have any questions or need further clarification on the report card and rating system, please do not hesitate to call me.

Sincerely,

Lisa A. McMahon Ed.D., Principal

“..... Promote student achievement by analyzing and utilizing assessment data to plan and implement instruction to meet the learning needs of students.” (One of Silver Lake Regional School District/Union #31 Instructional Goals)