

Ron Thiele, Superintendent

November 2015

Dear Parents or Guardians,

A teacher-parent conference brings the opportunity for you to meet with teachers regarding your child's academic and social goals. The purpose of this letter is to help clarify the expectations reflected on the report card so that you have a better understanding of the information your teacher will be sharing with you.

Common Core State Standards: Washington State has adopted the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) which outline grade level goals in Mathematics and English Language Arts (ELA) for all K-12 students. The standards are designed to prepare students for the advanced mathematics and literacy skills needed for college, career success and to compete in the global economy. These standards help teachers know exactly what core understandings, skills, and procedures students need in order to be successful. This link to our district CCSS webpage provides additional details about the Common Core Standards: <http://www.issaquah.wednet.edu/academics/commoncore.aspx>

The Elementary Report Card: Our elementary report card gives parents a snapshot of how students are progressing toward the standards. The purpose of our report card is to describe a student's *current* level of academic proficiency. However, in writing, student progress is evaluated in terms of *end of year* standards.

Our Writing Curriculum: To ensure that our students meet the high standards in writing, the Issaquah School District has implemented a rigorous and engaging writing curriculum called Units of Study. Teachers use an assessment rubric to measure student progress. This rubric is a tool that shows what writers should be able to do by *the end of the school-year*. The teacher will indicate your child's strengths and areas of growth based on this rubric. For the fall and winter grading periods, students are not expected to demonstrate end of year standards and your child's writing score on the report card may be lower than you expected since he/she is progressing toward that *end of year standard*. As the year unfolds and your child continues to receive writing instruction, we believe that all students will make considerable growth towards meeting the standards, which will be reflected on the spring report card.

We hope your child is enjoying his/her writing experience this year as we prepare students to succeed in their school career and beyond. If you have additional questions you may contact your child's teacher, Emilie Hard, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning harde@issaquah.wednet.edu or Ruth Cerna, Elementary Literacy Specialist cernar@issaquah.wednet.edu.

We value your partnership and appreciate the many ways in which you support your child's education.

Sincerely,

Assistant Superintendent
Teaching and Learning Services
Issaquah School District**Board of Directors**

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