



**Dear Parents,**

As you review your child's report card, we hope you find the Frequently Asked Questions helpful. At GUSD, we use a standards-based reporting system. Standards-based reporting provides a more comprehensive picture of your child's academic progress by identifying specific areas of strengths and challenges. Rather than looking at a subject area in a holistic way, standards-based reporting examines each subject area through specific elements (standards) of learning.

***How are grades determined on a standards-based report card?***

Grades are based on the current trimester expectations and give priority to recent evidence of learning rather than an average of learning. The grades for each trimester reflect student learning based on what was taught up to that point with the goal of meeting the standards by the end of the year.

***How is my child evaluated?***

We use two categories to communicate student progress:

- 1) Attitudes and Approaches to Learning** - efforts, actions, behaviors, social skills, work habits, and a growth mindset in the school setting

**C = Consistently Demonstrates:** Student consistently demonstrates the characteristic all or most of the time.

**D = Developing:** Student demonstrates the characteristic some of the time.

**N = Needs Improvement:** Student seldom demonstrates this characteristic.

- 2) Academic Learning** - indicates knowledge and ability to demonstrate progress toward California Common Core State Standards

TK- 2nd grade uses a 1-3 rubric grading scale

3rd- 6th grade uses a 1-4 rubric grading scale

***What do the grades mean?***

Multiple measures are used to determine grades as outlined below.

**3= Meets and Applies Standards** – A student demonstrates achievement and understanding of the standard(s).

**2= Approaches Standards** – A student is making progress toward achievement of the standard(s).

**1= Has Difficulty with Standards** – A student requires more time and experiences; shows limited achievement of the standard(s).

**X= Standard Not Assessed** – Standard has not been taught and/or measured during this trimester.

**4= Extends Standards (grades 3-6 only)** – A student demonstrates in-depth inferences, applications, and extensions. A student achieving 100% does not necessarily receive a '4'. Instead, a '4' reflects an in-depth integration of grade level standards.

***Why does the grading scale differ between grades TK-2 and 3-6?***

Instruction across grade levels reflects depth and complexity. The TK-2 report card includes an emphasis on foundational skills.