



T.I.S. Digital Backpack **November 9, 2015**



FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE:

Report Card Changes

This year's report card will contain changes in the definition of academic performance level indicators. Students will no longer be assessed on a 1 through 4 scale. Our new academic performance indicators are as follows:

- E** - Exceeds End of Year Grade Level Standard
- M** - Meets End of Year Grade level Standard
- A** - Approaches End of Year Grade Level Standard
- B** - Below Grade Level Standard.

Our new descriptors will allow us to communicate your child's progress toward meeting end of year standards. The expectation is that the majority of students will be approaching grade level standard during the first and second trimester and meeting grade level standard at the completion of the school year.

Please see the page below for a more comprehensive description of each indicator.



Definition of Academic Performance Levels for Standards Indicators

This page contains the scores and definitions used for students who are taught and evaluated on standards that are ***On Grade Level, Above Grade Level, and Below Grade Level***

Academic Performance Indicators: Report card shows student progress toward the end of year goals in the major categories in each subject. Each of the major categories in each subject on the SBRC will be reported using this scale.

Level	Description
E Exceeds	The student who receives this grade is demonstrating performance that is above the end of year grade level expectation . Students who are exceeding are able to apply learning to new situations and independently use strategies and skills. They are able to do work that is expected of a student in a higher grade. Some foundational skills may not have an “Exceeds.” For example, once a student knows all the letters of the alphabet, there are no ways to demonstrate “exceeding” this standard.
M Meets	This grade indicates that the student has met the end-of-year target for the skill or concept. The goal is for all students to receive this grade (or above) by the end of the year. If the teacher has taught to end of year content standards and the student has met the standard by the time of the reporting period, your child may receive an “M” (there may be some foundational standards and math standards that are completed by December).
A Approaches	The student receiving this grade is progressing and demonstrates basic or inconsistent application of end of year concepts and skills . This grade would be appropriate for an “on-level” student in the Fall and Winter for many of the standards. The student is making expected progress but is not yet at end-of-year standards. It is important to communicate to your child that an “A” indicates that he or she is “on track” to achieving a “Meets” by the end of the school year. This is not a “bad” grade!
B Below	The student receiving this grade shows limited understanding of end of year concepts and skills . Student is performing “below” grade level and may need more support at school to catch up. Your child’s teacher may share ideas for helping him or her grow closer to grade –level work.
N N/A	Teachers will use the N grade, meaning “Not Addressed” when there is a standard on the report card that has not been taught yet. Some subjects and standards are taught only during certain times of the school year. For example, some math standards are taught only in lessons that will be used in the Spring
P IEP Plan	Used with E, M, A, B and indicates level is based on IEP Plan

The major difference between the 2015-16 K-5 report cards is the indicators the teachers are using to assess your child. In the past we used a 1-4 rating scale and felt it was not adequately meeting our needs, so we implemented the system described above.

The major difference in grading is the fact that the students are being assessed on end of the year standards.

Parent Portal Information

Tolland Intermediate School uses PowerSchool's online parent portal to allow you access to your child's current grades, attendance, and other information through the Internet. Wherever you have Internet access, at home, at work, at the library, etc., you can view academic information related to you child. This year, Power School has upgraded to allow for a single log-in that allows parents to see information on all of their children enrolled in the school district. This requires parents to create their accounts and link their children to the accounts.

The steps to link your children to one account may be found below and on our website.

PLEASE NOTE: The Portal will not be open to students or parents until Monday, December 7th at 4:00 PM and will close on January 4, 2016.

If you have any questions or have forgotten your child's access information, please feel free to email Ginger White at gwhite@tolland.k12.ct.us.

Power School Parent Portal **Create Your Single Sign-On Account**

1. Go to the Power School Portal Website:
<https://tollandschools.powerschool.com/public>
2. Click the tab that says "Create Account."
3. Click the button that says "Create Account."
4. Fill out the information under the heading "Create Parent Account." All fields are required.
NOTE: You will be prompted to choose your desired username and password. Please retain this information for your login to the portal.
5. Fill out the information under the heading "Link Students to Account" for at least one of your children in the school district. You will need the Access ID and Access Password on the front of this letter to set up the student referenced.
6. Click "Enter."

NOTE: You are permitted to link up to seven students on this screen. Should you need to link with more students, you will need to follow the steps below and add additional students once logged in.

If you receive an error message...

An error message may appear if:

1. You have not completed all of the fields in the form;
2. You entered an invalid Parent Access ID for your student;
3. You have entered your student's login information instead of the Parent Access ID;
4. You have used an email address that is associated with another parent account;
5. You have a weak Password;

Adding Additional Students after Creating Your Single Sign-On Account

1. Log-in to your parent account.
2. Click "Account Preferences" on the top navigation menu. This page allows parents to manage their account information including their name, username, password, and email address.
3. Go to the "Students" tab and click "Add" to add a new student to the account. Fill in the pop-up with the following information:
 - * Student Name
 - * Access ID
 - * Access Password
 - * Relationship
4. Click "Submit."

For more detailed instructions, please visit the Tolland Public Schools website. Under District Offices, select "Technology" and follow the Power School Parent Portal links.



Students in Miss Clayton's fourth grade class created a bulletin board made out of handprint cutouts. Each student decorated a handprint and the prints were organized into the shape of a flower. The activity was part of a classroom community building exercise stressing the importance of each student as an individual and the impact they each have on the classroom community.

Thanks PTO

Thank you to our amazing PTO for providing the staff with a wonderful assortment of delicious deserts. The dessert extravaganza was one of the many staff appreciation events held throughout the year. Thanks to Mrs. Tabitha McKown for organizing the event and thank you to the many parents who contributed delicious treats.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November

- 10 Picture Retake Day
- 10 BOE Meeting (at THS tonight)
- 18 Coffee with the Principals
- 20 Hat Day
- 25, 26, 27 No School



PICTURE RETAKE DAY

November 10, 9:00-11:00

Please read the info from LifeTouch below

Who Should Go on Absentee/Retake Day:

- Any student not satisfied with original portrait - Return your complete package to the photographer on retake day.
 - Any student who was absent on the original day whether you are purchasing a package or not.
 - Any student who did not purchase on the original day and would like to purchase a package. Order forms are available in the school office approximately one week prior to retake day.
- Any questions, please call Lifetouch at 203-735-5933

WINTER CONCERT 2015



Grade 4 & 5 Chorus

Thursday, December 3 at 7:00 pm

Tolland Intermediate School all Purpose room

You are invited to the grade five chorus concert on *Thursday, December 3 at 7:00* in the Tolland Intermediate School all Purpose room.

The fourth grade chorus will be having their concert in conjunction with our fifth grade concert.

Students are to arrive at 6:30 to Ms. Baker's music room, room 136.

Students are asked to dress their best for this special performance.

I am looking forward to seeing you all there for an evening of music, entertainment and family fun.

Thank you,
Ms. Judith Baker



Thank you

to all the families that bought gift cards during our October Shop with Scrips sale.

**Pick up will be on Tuesday,
November 10th – 3:30pm – 6pm
in the Birch Grove foyer
(outside the library).**

If your order was under \$100 we will send the gift cards home in your child's backpack.

If you cannot make this pick up time please email Kim Schwarz (schwarz7@comcast.net) or Rachel Axler (sunraystar@yahoo.com).

Our next order deadline will be November 30th
(pick up December 8th) – start thinking about your holiday shopping!

Bottle Drive

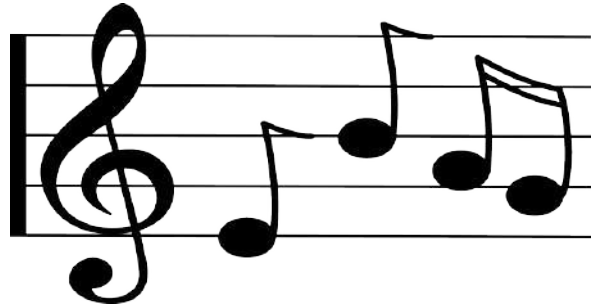
Last Bottle Drive of 2015!

Get all those empty bottles and cans out of your garage and make room for your cars before the snow flies!

Tolland Project Graduation's next Bottle Drive is right around the corner.

Saturday, November 14th 9-1:00 at Birch Grove School

We are always in need of volunteers to work 8:15-3:15. If you would like to volunteer or learn more about the bottle drive, email tpg.bottledrive@gmail.com<<mailto:tpg.bottledrive@gmail.com>> or you can call Lisa Bowden at 860-729-8466.



Attention All Grade 4 and 5 Band and Chorus Members

Please take note:

On weather-related late opening days, there will be **NO Morning Chorus or Band for fourth and fifth graders** OR before school band lessons.

There **WILL** be band lessons during weather delay days, but there will be an adjusted lesson schedule with shortened times.

We want all our TIS musicians to be safe.

Thank you, Ms. Baker and Ms. Marchesani



Healthy Snacks offered at TIS

*After lunch is served to all students a limited number of
Healthy Snacks will be available for purchase during their lunch break.
Tolland Public Schools participates in Healthy Food Certification and all
of our*

Snacks meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards!

Items may include:

small bags of baked chips, whole grain rich pretzels or popcorn

100% frozen juice treats

whole grain rich cookies and dessert items

whole grain rich cereal bars

small ice cream treats

If you have questions, please contact Abby Kassman-Harned, Director of Food Service

aharned@tolland.k12.ct.us or 860-870-6853 ext. 109



The End