Dear K-5 Parents:

Last year, and part of this school year, Steilacoom School District administrators and teachers worked to create an updated report card which is aligned to the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). This was an important move in our efforts to align our instruction and assessments to state learning standards. This improvement will better prepare our students for the new Standards-Based Assessment, or SBA, which all 3rd-5th grade students will take this spring.

Beginning in February 2015, you will see the revised version of the report card. Many of the features, such as the layout, will look the same, but there are a few changes we wish to point out to you.

- The standards reflect the CCSS, which are Washington State’s learning standards. The staff committee that revised the report card aligned these standards by grade level.
- The New Report Card format will have a 3 point scoring scale. The scores indicate whether a student is meeting standard (3), is approaching standard (2), or is below standard (1). Teachers who wish to note distinguished performance will be able to include details in the comment section of the report card. Other marks may be used depending on a student’s program or grade level.
  - “M” means that the student’s instruction for a particular standard is taught by a specialist outside the classroom and progress toward that is reported through a separate progress report.
  - “N/E” indicates that a standard is not evaluated at that time. This mark is appropriate when a standard is built upon the mastery of other standards taught earlier in the year, or when a teacher has placed the teaching and assessment of that standard in the curriculum at a specific time in the year.
- The report card differentiates between academic achievement, which is noted by a number score (3, 2, 1) and learner attributes, which are indicated by symbols (+,+,+,-). The purpose for this is to align our assessment to state learning standards and also to give an indicator of whether a student is demonstrating the habits and practices that are expected to support learning for that grade level.

You will receive the report card quarterly. The report card allows you to see which standards are measured in which term and how your child is progressing over time. All of this information will be available via the district website under the Teaching and Learning webpage.

We are confident that the revisions to the K-5 report cards will better inform you of student progress in specific learning areas. Because they are aligned with Washington State learning standards, the scores should be one indicator of how students might perform on the required state assessments and where students may need more time and support in order to meet the learning standards.

Please communicate with your child’s teacher, principal, or email me if you have any questions about the report card.

Sincerely,

Paul J Harvey
Executive Director of Student Achievement
Steilacoom Historical School District No.1
pharvey@steilacoom.k12.wa.us