



November 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians:

The Methacton School District elementary curriculum is aligned to both the PA Core and Academic Standards, and as a result, we utilize a Standards-Based Reporting system for elementary students. The PA Standards are specific learning goals designed to provide *year-end targets* for *all* students. The Methacton School District follows a rigorous curriculum, and both our current English Language Arts program, *Wonders*, and Mathematics program, *Math in Focus*, are fully aligned to the PA Core Standards. To learn more about the PA Core and Academic Standards and the specific content and skills for each grade level, you are encouraged to visit PDE's website at: <https://www.pdesas.org/Page/Viewer/ViewPage/11/>

One of the purposes of a Standards-Based Reporting system is to provide specific, detailed information to parents and guardians regarding the progress their child is making toward a *year-end defined learning standard* as set forth by specific grade level content and skills. Rather than providing one letter grade for each subject area, a Standards-Based Report Card utilizes indicators which communicates how well a student is progressing toward the end of the year grade level benchmarks delineated by the PA Core and Academic Standards. It also ensures consistency of rigorous instructional practices and common assessments across all classrooms in our elementary schools. The report card places the focus on measurable student performance working toward a goal of proficiency and beyond, and the teachers gain a more realistic insight into students' capabilities through a variety of data collection such as performance tasks, classwork assignments, journals, portfolios, as well as a myriad of formative and summative assessments that show evidence of student work over time.

The students will be assessed on a four-level continuum as follows on the report card for all academic and special areas:

E = Exceeding Expectations - Student consistently demonstrates a thorough understanding beyond the expectations for year-end grade level PA Core Standards.

M = Meeting Expectations - Student consistently demonstrates an understanding of the expectations for the year-end grade level PA Core Standards.

P = Progressing Toward Expectations - Student demonstrates an inconsistent or incomplete understanding of the expectations for the year-end grade level PA Core Standards.

NY = Not Yet - Student demonstrates minimal understanding of or limited progress toward the expectations for year-end grade level PA Core Standards.

Another section of the report card, *Qualities of a Successful Learner*, outlines the behaviors that directly impact a student's ability to learn: becoming a self-directed learner, a productive learner, a collaborative worker, and respectful citizen. These are important life skills we want all students to develop, and the children are assessed on the same continuum listed above.

Although the report cards are important, they are only one part of a larger reporting system. Should you ever have any questions regarding your child's performance, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher for more information. We look forward to your continued partnership as it pertains to your child's progress and learning outcomes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matthew Walsh".

Matthew W. Walsh, Ed. D.
Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jenifer Brucker".

Jenifer Brucker
Supervisor of Elementary Education