

Report Card Reboot

Report card day is usually depicted in movies as the most feared event for students. Kids hide, change, or destroy the dreaded evidence of their performance or lack thereof. Computer hacking may have first grown from this desired information change. Cassia Schools are attempting to lessen the fear for students and heighten the value for parents with a Standards Based Report Card. This new style of reporting student progress will only be available for kindergarten to second grade students this year but the 2017-2018 school year will see third to fifth come online.

Standards Based reporting means that parents will be able to see exactly what the standards are learning for that grade and how far along their child is to being proficient at that standard. Kevin Bushman, Federal Programs co-ordinator and former Overland School Administrator, remembers a time when this format was used at his school. "We learned in 1986 that this way of showing parents how their child was doing enabled parents to work with their kids. They know what they are working on and exactly what they need to know." For a variety of reasons, this approach fell to the way side. Cassia is ready for the report card reboot.

This way of presenting student progress is much more work for a teacher, but the value is also greater for the parent. Parents are able to look at the content areas of Math, English Language Arts and Science and get an explanation of a skill or benchmark. In all honesty, a "C" in Math for a kindergarten student is fairly useless information for a parent or student. However, showing a parent that a required math skill in kindergarten is counting to 20 and that the student counts to 15, allows a parent to help their child be more successful. There is greater meaning to helping at home. Every parent can be a teacher's aide.

Assistant Superintendent, Sandra Miller, says, "the best feature of standards based report cards is the ability to inform parents, at a deeper level, as to the skills and knowledge their child has or needs to master." She continues that the process of creating the final report card template was a team effort of grade level teachers from around the district. Along with the actual new report card, parents will have other resources, such as student handbooks and guides, to help them understand the standards.

Raft River Elementary teacher, Alex Ready, is currently working on the third card report card for next year. Her perspective addresses the benefits to her instruction. "This kind of report card is better for teachers. It helps us understand the standards better and how to get kids to the standard." No longer are teachers aiming at vague targets. The standards approach provides a timeline and parameters during the year and a way to show parents the specific progress along the way. Ms. Ready points out that the new format shows the pace of the learning. Some areas of the report card won't be filled out because that standard isn't taught until later in the year. "We can't expect our students to be at grade level in the third grade only 9 weeks into the third grade. Grade mastery comes at the end of the year."

This newly designed report card will reflect the current progress and status of a student, as well as, what they will lead up to. Designed by teachers, instructive for parents and good for kids is the best way to describe this latest improvement in Cassia.