



Just because something doesn't do what you planned it to do doesn't mean it's useless. - *Thomas Edison (Inventor)*

Dear Families,

As our first trimester closes, we are excited to share the progress your child has made. Report cards give you a snapshot of where your child is currently meeting grade level expectations, along with areas of future growth. This first trimester in particular allows us to set goals and work directly with you to find opportunities for new challenges and continued support.

To ensure that our students meet the high standards in writing, the Issaquah School District adopted a rigorous writing curriculum several years ago. Since the writing expectations look at end of year standards, we have slightly modified the scores so that students are graded where they currently are performing. As the year progresses and students continue to receive writing instruction in Units of Study, we have high expectations that all students will continue to make considerable growth in the area of writing. Please be aware that our personal narrative unit is the most difficult, and during conferences we will highlight specific writing skills that your child can continue to develop.

In addition, for the past few years we have been using the Eureka Math curriculum. Deep mastery of mathematical concepts is one of the major goals, as is building students' confidence as mathematicians. Report card grades are based on evidence of learning such as module assessments, exit slips, assignments, problem-solving tasks and direct observations of students demonstrating their proficiency in class. Many of the math concepts are assessed at a deeper level than in the past, in alignment with higher standards. We are excited to see their engagement and their growth, and are proud of how students have been able to thrive with the increased rigor.

We are excited to meet with you and your child during conferences, and hope you find lots of things to celebrate on the report card.

Thank you.

**-Brandon and Courtney**

## Elementary Report Card Process

Access to all Elementary student report cards will be available through Family Access as of 5:00 p.m. on Monday, December 03, 2018. Directions for accessing the report card via Family Access can be found on the [Family Access section](#) of the Issaquah School District Web site. We have discontinued the use of paper copies. Please notice that when you click on the report card file, you will be prompted to electronically sign to verify that you have viewed the report card. We appreciate you taking the time to complete this step. This helps us to ensure that all student report cards are viewed by parents. Parent/Guardian Reference Guides will help parents navigate the grade level report cards. These documents are also posted on the [Elementary Report Cards section](#) of the Issaquah School District Web site. Each report card and Parent/Guardian Reference guide has been translated into Spanish and Chinese (Traditional) and can also be found in the [Elementary Report Cards section](#) of the Issaquah School District Web Site.

### Our units this trimester:

#### **SOCIAL STUDIES**

- Unit 1: First People, Encounter, and Colonization

#### **SCIENCE**

- Adaptations
- Water Cycle
- Science Notebooks

#### **MATH**

- Dungeon Quests
- Application problems
- Unit Assessments (Topic Quizzes, End of Module, Mid-Module)

#### **WRITING**

- Lucy Caulkin's Units of Study: Personal Narrative Writing Unit

#### **READING**

- Reading Grade Level Text
- Comprehending Grade Level Text

### Growth Mindset

While we hope you will find lots to celebrate on the report card, we recognize that this first report card can indicate areas of growth in certain areas, especially in behavior goals.

We as a school community have been working on establishing a culture with a "Growth Mindset" and we have brought this to class meetings to help develop a classroom culture as well. Growth Mindset looks at a positive outlook as a tool to help students keep trying, learning from mistakes, and embracing challenges.

Encourage your child to look at areas where they can make growth as just that- places where they can use a growth mindset to keep trying and learning. We don't say "I can't" we say "I will!"

Remember, this is only a snapshot of what they can achieve, and we will keep learning together through the year!

**You are cordially invited to conferences, December 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>**

Your child will be presenting their portfolio and sharing their performance and progress so far this year.