

## Standards-Based Report Cards

Bronson Elementary Schools will use a standards-based report card for all elementary school students this school year. As some of you know Michigan adopted the new common core state standards in English Language Arts and Mathematics last year. This gave the schools direction to start changing their curriculum and instruction from grade level content standards to the new national standards. This is a “work in progress” as we move to teaching and evaluating the common core state standards. The standards-based report card gives us a tool to accurately communicate to parents and guardians the progress their child is making in learning the state-identified common core standards for each grade level, third through sixth grade.

A standards-based report card was developed last year for grades kindergarten through second. That card will be used at the end of the second, fourth, and fifth marking periods. A standards-based checklist and/or narrative will be used at the end of the first and third marking periods for students in grades kindergarten through second. Last year many parents complimented the kindergarten through second grade staff for developing a card that was more precise concerning what students need to learn. This gave the parents direction on what assistance their student needed to meet standards throughout the year. In 2012-2013 the kindergarten through second grade standards based report card will be aligned to the national standards.

The standards-based report card is helpful in several ways. First, it helps make sure there is more consistency of expectations from teacher to teacher. It helps teachers and students focus on the standards from the very beginning of the school year, giving students the opportunity to get help early if they are not making adequate progress. Finally, it gives parents information on how their child is doing based on the standards. The standards based report cards do not contain traditional letters grades that represented a whole subject. They do contain a letter system that indicates a student’s mastery or progress to each designated standard.

The standards based report card will use a letter system of O, M, S, and U to indicate a student’s progress on a specific standard.

O = Outstanding achievement exceeding the standard

M = Meets the standard

S = Satisfactory progress towards the standard

U = Unsatisfactory progress towards the standard

Blank = Not addressed at this time

Our goal is for all students to attain an M or O before the end of the year for each standard. Bronson Schools have divided the school year into five marking periods. The high school has an unbalanced trimester which is comprised of: the elementary marking periods one and two for the first trimester, the elementary marking periods of three and four for the second trimester, and the elementary marking period five for the third trimester. The third trimester at the high school is quite often referred to as “May Term,” as it is basically the month of May.

A meeting is planned for November 7th starting at 6:00 p.m. at Chicago Street School to promote further understanding of these changes in grade cards. There will be a short presentation followed by a question and answer period. Parents will see the new cards during the Fall Parent/Teacher Conferences.