

# Standards-Based Report Cards

What does it really mean?

# Standards-based means...

- Learning and developmental expectations each student is expected to achieve by the END of the school year.
- Grades are based on progress in reaching a standard, instead of traditional grades.
  - Instead of 1 grade for math or reading; students academic development is indicated by where they are relative to mastering the skills for their grade level- What they are responsible for learning.
  - Effort, attitude, participation in the past all calculated into the grade- but in no way do these attributes indicate if a student has mastered a skill--now the performance level is only about proficiency and mastery.
- NCLB laws focus on instruction that is content and standards based.
- More accurate feedback to parents and students, who can now see what the expectations are and in which areas the student needs to develop.

# What do performance levels mean?

- E, M, P, N are the performance levels used to reflect where the student is currently, working towards being proficient in a given standard.
  - N= needs improvement; student needs to work on developing that skill
  - P= progressing; student partially meets standard, but still needs to further develop the skill
  - M= meets standard; student is proficient at the desired level
    - an M should NOT be looked at as a B; you can't compare apples and oranges!
    - Our goal for all children is that they get all Ms! In past, we've had students who earned As, but are not proficient on NJASK; we MUST focus on skills and standards.
  - E= excels at standard; student exceeds the standard

## Drawbacks to using standards:

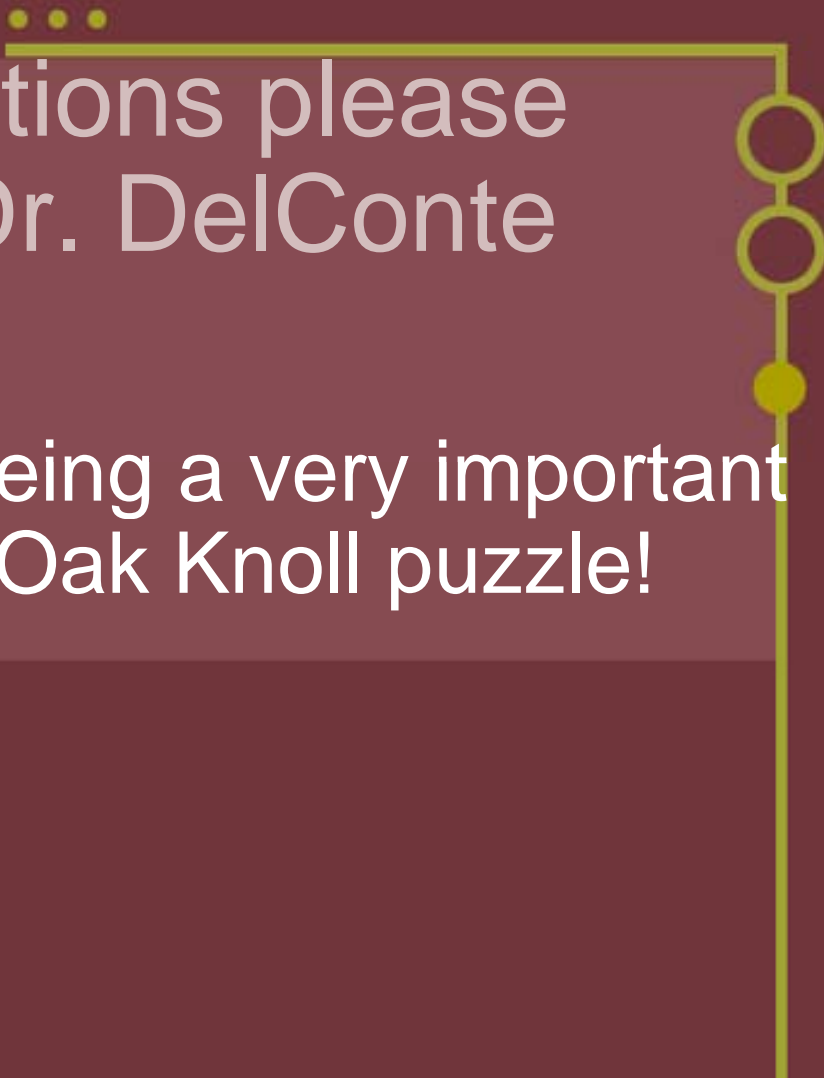
- Difficult to understand
- Students may not achieve Ms and Es until second half of the year, as the skills are taught and developed over the course of the entire year; therefore a P may be perceived as an underachievement, when in fact it is NOT.
- Numerical grades DO NOT and should not equate to a performance standard.
- WMS/WHS still using traditional report card; but information on elementary report card will be helpful in grouping and instructing the students at WMS
  - Secondary report cards need to remain traditional for the sake of transcripts for college

## Related concerns...

- PowerSchool access still not an option
  - Having technical difficulty
  - New server/version of PS is coming in January which may further complicate the process
- Honor roll: It is still being calculated based on numerical grades to allow an opportunity for students to be recognized for effort, regardless of academic level
- Raising the bar...95 +

## ... There is research out there...

In an article called Rethinking Report Cards, by Great School Staff, it was noted, “As with any new program, students and parents should also expect some glitches and changes in the first few years. Both Mead and Friedenberg noted that the first couple of years with their standards-based report cards were challenging for teachers as they dealt with technical difficulties at the same time they were working to align their teaching and assessment with the new report cards. Patience and understanding from parents and students go a long way when schools are working out the bugs in a new program.”



Any questions please  
contact Dr. DelConte

Thank you for being a very important  
piece in the Oak Knoll puzzle!