



CARDINAL McCLOSKEY
COMMUNITY CHARTER SCHOOL

September 2025

Dear Parents:

We are happy to share that, students in Kindergarten through 5th grade will be transitioning to a new report card known as Standards-Based Report Cards. This change is important as it supports our mission of providing every student with an equitable opportunity to learn and be successful. The report card which is designed to align to NYS Standards, will be graded with a letter grade for each standard the child met, or is working toward meeting.

As part of our process, our teachers worked over the Summer to review and approve the report cards. Known as a pilot program, We will be interested in how parents view the report cards. We are thrilled to fully implement them this school year!

Family Guide to Report Cards

Purpose of Report Cards

For the 2025-2026 school year, we are moving from a number-based grading system (1-4) to the letter-based proficiency/grading scale explained below. This new grading scale more accurately communicates students' progress toward mastery of grade level standards. You will have a clearer understanding of whether your child is on track or needs support for a given standard.

Proficiency Scale (Grades) (This is what grades will look like)

- **EX (Exceeded):** Above grade-level expectations, applying concepts in new ways ("I really get it and can teach others how to do it too!")
- **PR (Proficient):** Meeting grade-level standards consistently ("I can do it on my own!")
- **AP (Approaching):** Developing skills, working toward mastery ("I get some of it and I'm starting to do more and more on my own.")

☐ : Standard not covered until later in the school year

3rd Grade Language Arts Student Benchmarks	
READING LITERATURE	Q1
Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of text using text evidence.	EX ▾
Retell stories and identify the central message, lesson, or moral using key details in the text.	PR ▾
READING INFORMATIONAL TEXTS	Q1

Teacher Comments on Report Cards

Along with proficiency scores, teachers may include comments to give families a complete picture. These may:

- Highlight strengths (e.g., “enjoys working in groups”)
- Show growth (e.g., “improving in reading fluency”)
- Identify challenges (e.g., “needs support with multiplication facts”)
- Offer suggestions (e.g., “ask your child to explain their math thinking”)

Tips for Families:

- Look for patterns across subjects
- Use teacher suggestions at home
- Contact your child’s teacher if you need clarification

Core Subjects

English Language Arts (ELA)

Your child builds skills in reading, writing, language, and speaking/listening:

- Reading: Decode words, read fluently, understand stories and information
- Writing: Create opinion, narrative, and informative pieces
- Language: Use grammar, punctuation, spelling, and vocabulary
- Speaking & Listening: Share ideas and participate in discussion

How Families Can Help:

- Read together at least 20 minutes daily and talk about the story
- Encourage writing in journals, letters, or creative stories
- Talk about new words in books, shows, and conversations

Mathematics

Students learn to think critically, solve problems, and build fluency in number operations.

Focus Areas (K–5):

- Numbers & Operations: Place value, addition, subtraction, multiplication, division
- Measurement & Data: Time, money, graphs, data
- Geometry: Shapes and their properties
- Problem Solving: Applying math to real-life situations

How Families Can Help:

- Practice math during cooking, shopping, or telling time
- Use drawings or objects to solve problems
- Praise effort and persistence

Science & Social Studies

Science grades are based on the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) which emphasize hands-on exploration and critical thinking. In Social Studies, students learn about history, civics, economics, and geography, beginning with their own community and expanding outward.

Skills Reported:

- Ask and investigate scientific questions (Science)
- Plan and carry out experiments (Science)
- Record and explain observations (Science)
- Learn about important people and events and understand community, state, and national history (Social Studies)
- Practice map and globe skills (Social Studies)
- Understand government, laws, and citizenship (Social Studies)

How Families Can Help:

- Do simple experiments (mixing, observing, building)
- Explore outdoors and ask “why” and “how” questions
- Read or watch age-friendly science resources
- Visit museums, parks, and historical sites
- Share family traditions and history
- Talk about community helpers, elections, and current events

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or your child(ren’s) teacher.

Thank you for your continued support

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Principal