

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Just a reminder today, April 19<sup>th</sup>, report cards will be sent home with all students. You can also access your child's report card through the Parent Portal in OnCourse Connect. Report cards provide you with a great reason to start a conversation with your child about school. Consider these tips:

- Find a quiet time and place to sit with your child and have a relaxed discussion about their report card. If you have more than one child, it is a good idea to spend time with each separately to avoid comparing grades with siblings.
- An effort mark/comment is by far one of the most important aspects of every child's report because it is the one they have the most direct control over. When children are focused on trying their best and feel their efforts are seen and valued, they are going to be much more resilient learners. Resilient learners enjoy learning, continue to challenge themselves and are more comfortable making mistakes. These are extremely valuable life-long skills.
- Help your child understand that everyone is different. Everyone excels (and struggles) in different areas. Try to avoid comparisons between their report card and their siblings' or classmates' reports. Instead, focus on where they have tried their best, as well as the learning areas in which they achieved well or made a great improvement in.
- In your discussion, set an individual learning goal for the next semester in an area where it may be needed whether it be academic or social. It may be good to compare your child's current report card to their previous one, to help them see their progress. Adversely, you may need to identify any areas of continued struggle and discuss why your child may still be falling short. In either case, praise improvements and areas of growth made.
- Lastly, make a plan with your child. If you've identified areas needing some attention, set a learning goal for the last few months of school. Together, decide on steps they can take to address any concerns and/or progress toward their learning goal.

While these suggestions are important, above all else, give your child time to share their own thoughts and feelings about school, about what they are learning, about how they feel in their classroom and about their relationships with their teachers and friends.

As always, the Estell Manor School District is dedicated to your child's learning experience. Please reach should you need assistance or have questions.

Wishing your child, a very successful last semester of school!

Michelle M. Cappelluti, Ed.D.  
Interim Superintendent