

## REPORT CARDS

**QUESTION:** How should the report card be used to evaluate my child's academic progress?

**ANSWER:** The report card should be used as a tool to help your child learn. Report cards are designed to identify a child's strengths and weaknesses. When used properly, report cards are very beneficial for the student, teacher, and parents.

### REWARD AND PUNISHMENT

Report cards are not designed to be used as a system of rewards and punishment. Although it is important that a child be praised for doing his/her best and receive recognition for good grades, it is usually not recommended that a child strive for good grades on the promise of monetary rewards. Similarly, a child should not be punished for poor grades, especially if he/she has made an effort to do a good job. Removal of privileges alone will not help the child do better, and may complicate the problem.

### STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES

The report card is used by the teacher to identify a child's strengths and weaknesses. High grades in a subject indicate that the child has reached mastery level and may be ready for some enrichment activities. Low grades indicate areas that need additional work. When a child receives a low grade, or consistently low grades, the teacher, child, and parents need to develop a plan for improvement. Working together to raise the grade and improve learning is the goal.

### PARENT SUPPORT

Remember, the report card is a reflection of the student's progress, not the parents. Parents may help a child establish good study habits, make sure he/she finishes homework, and encourage a child to do his/her best, but the final result reflects the child's effort. A parent is not directly responsible for a child's grades.

Report cards are meant to keep parents and students up-to-date on academic progress. Each grading period is the beginning of a new opportunity to show improvement and academic success.