

### **What can you do to help your child?**

- Maintain an open and ongoing dialogue with your child's teacher. Seek additional resources from the teacher that will strengthen and extend what is learned in class.
- Take care of your child's social, emotional, and physical health. Every child needs rest, a balanced schedule of activities and a healthy diet.
- Know what kind of homework is expected of your child and develop a routine for homework completion. Have a quiet spot to complete homework. Have any needed supplies ready nearby.
- Ask your child specific questions about school activities. Listen, converse, plan and celebrate with your child.
- Make reading a part of your family's daily routine. Read to your child. Have your child read to you. Read and discuss books together.
- Discuss current events. Allow your child to express opinions about what's happening in the community and in the world.
- Encourage activities that involve problem solving. Let your child find solutions to problems by asking for suggestions and comments.

### **Standards-Based Language Key Terms**

**Assessment-** The ongoing process of gathering data or giving feedback about a student's performance in order to determine a student's strengths and weaknesses, improve instruction, and document student progress.

**Benchmark-** A reachable target for student learning at various points of the year, as defined by samples of student work.

**Performance Levels-** The letters for academic performance will be used to indicate a student's level of understanding and performance.

## **Melrose Public Schools Grades K-5**



### **Information on the Elementary Standards Report Card for Families 2013-2014**

Melrose Public Schools' elementary schools in grades K-5 use a standards-based report card to provide information on a student's development and progress in relation to the learning standards outlined in each subject.

### What are standards?

Standards are what students should know and be able to do at the end of each grade. Massachusetts, in March 2011, adopted new standards in English Language Arts and Mathematics. These new standards incorporate the new national Common Core State Standards (CCSS). The standards set expectations for student learning and provide for greater accountability for student achievement.

### What is a standards-based report card?

A standards-based report card provides detailed information on how well your child is progressing toward mastery of year-end standards in each subject area based upon the new state standards.

A standards-based report card differs from a traditional report card in two ways:

- what it measures
- how it reports progress

The standards-based report card lists year-end standards for each content area and shows student progress. At the end of each grading period, the teacher will indicate your child's performance level in meeting the year-end standards.

### What does the standards-based report card tell parents?

The standards-based report card:

- identifies the learning standards to be met at the end of each grade level.
- provides specific information about your child's progress in meeting the year-end standard.
- shows areas for continued growth.

### How does the standards-based report card compare with traditional grades?

The "Academic Performance Key" below replaces traditional grades in grades 1-3 and indicates the student's progress toward meeting the year-end standard. These codes are not

averages of work completed. On a standards-based report card, each of these subject areas is divided into a list of skills and knowledge that students are responsible for learning. Students receive a separate mark for each standard.

#### ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE KEY

**E=Exceeds Benchmarks**-Student exceeds benchmarks by independently applying and utilizing concepts and skills.

**M=Meets Benchmarks**- A child is able to complete this task or exhibit this behavior independently or with very limited teacher support.

**P=Progressing**- Child is able to perform this task or exhibit this behavior consistently with teacher support and may at times show signs of independence.

**N=Needs Improvement**- A child needs significant teacher support in order to attempt to do this task or exhibit this behavior.

\*=Indicates the standard has not yet been addressed in

In grades 4-5, in addition to indication of how students are progressing toward the standards using the "Academic Performance Key", students still receive an overall grade in each subject area, i.e. English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies.

#### OVERALL GRADE KEY (Grades 4-5)

**A**=Goes beyond benchmarks

**B**=Meets benchmarks

**C**=Progress being made toward benchmarks

**D**=Little progress made toward benchmarks

**F**=No progress made toward benchmarks

### When are the reporting periods?

You will receive your child's report card in December, March, and June.