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Romeo Community Schools

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September 8, 2015

Dear Kindergarten-Fifth Grade Families:

The Romeo Community Schools Report Card Committee has been working to finalize plans for our Standards-Based Report Cards for grades kindergarten through fifth, beginning in the 2015-2016 school year.

Standards-Based Grading (SBG) is a way for teachers to report what students know and are able to do in relation to the Michigan State Standards for a student's particular grade level. Each content area: reading, writing, math, science, social studies, art, physical education, music, and digital literacy, has its own set of standards. These standards tell us what a student needs to know and be able to do during certain points of learning in these content areas. SBG allows us to have common language and practice across the district in all content areas. It is important for parents and students to understand what is expected throughout the year.

With a Standards-Based Grading system teachers will align their instruction and student assignments with specific grade level learning targets. Teachers then assess students' progress toward a specific standard. Often the criterion for a certain assignment or assessment is in the form of a rubric. Students, parents, and teachers will be aware of what specific standards are being taught in the assignment, and whether the student demonstrates learning in each individual standard. Another important element to consider is that SBG emphasizes a student's progress toward mastery.

Beginning in the 2015-2016 school year, Romeo's elementary Standards Based Grading system will be based upon three levels. The levels are as follows: 1 = Does not meet grade level expectations, 2 = Progressing toward grade level expectations, and 3 = Meets grade level expectations. This system replaces letter grades, or percentages.

The final grade for a student on a standard will not be an average of assignments and assessments, as in the past, which allows lower performance on an

assignment or assessment to skew overall evidence of progress. Instead, your student's performance will be looked at over time, with the goal being to master the required learning standards for his or her grade level in each content area. The emphasis is on meeting learning standards, rather than earning percentages and grades. Students will work on increasing skills, instead of earning points.

We at Romeo Community Schools are excited about Standards Based Grading as a tool to support universal expectations for all elementary students. Reports of student progress will look different this year than in years past. We feel this change will provide our students, parents, and teachers with more specific information regarding student performance on required learning standards while providing additional opportunities for all students to improve their learning. Thank you for your continued support as we work collaboratively in the best interests of our students.

Sincerely,

Roger Bennett, Principal, Amanda Moore Elementary School
Bill Bock, Principal, Washington Elementary School
Paul Essian, Principal, Hevel Elementary School
Andrea Hasse, Principal, Hamilton-Parsons Elementary School
Lisa Wujczyk, Principal, Indian Hills Elementary School