



# Santa Monica Malibu Schools

Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District  
1651 Sixteenth Street • Santa Monica, California 90404 • 310.450.8338

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Enclosed is your child’s first semester standards-based report card. We are very proud of our teachers and staff who have designed and developed this report card, a project that’s been several years in the making.

The report card is standards-based for language arts and mathematics. That is, your child’s current level of classroom performance is being compared with the expected performance for **end-of-the-year** state standards in these two academic areas. California’s academic standards are some of the highest in the nation. Santa Monica-Malibu classroom teachers work hard to see that their students reach or exceed these standards by the end of the year.

While an overall mark for progress is provided in reading, writing, oral language and mathematics, the report card also provides detailed information as to how your child is currently progressing in very specific areas of language arts and mathematics. A grade-level glossary of terms with examples of several of the standards is attached. We hope this tool will help make sense of the report card language and terminology, which comes directly from state standards.

For this reporting period, teachers will mark students with **indicators of progress** in language arts and mathematics:

- 1 Making little progress toward proficiency**
- 2 Making some progress toward proficiency**
- 3 Making good progress toward proficiency**
- 4 Demonstrates proficiency**
- 5 Demonstrates above grade level proficiency**
- N/A Not assessed at this time**
- \* See individualized student progress report**

A “1” means a child has made little progress toward the standard since the beginning of the school year. A “2” means a child has made some progress toward the standard. A “3” (good progress toward the standard) is exactly where we would want students to be at this point in the year. Students who are making good progress are well on their way to reaching the standards by year’s end. We delight in watching your children learn and grow and celebrate their progress toward standards! Students who have already demonstrated end-of-the-year proficiency in a standard will receive a 4. A “5” means the student has demonstrated proficiency for the end-of-the-year standard at the next grade level; therefore, few students will receive 5s. Some areas of the curriculum have not yet been introduced at this halfway point in the year, and therefore will not be assessed or marked until June. Finally, students who have Individualized Educational Plans will also receive an attachment to their report card with an individualized student progress report. This individualized report will provide additional information as to how your child is progressing toward IEP goals.

Other areas of the curriculum are marked with **other indicators**:

- + Consistently meets expectations**
- √+ Usually meets expectations**
- √ Sometimes meets expectations**
- Rarely meets expectations**
- N/A Not assessed at this time**
- \* See individualized student progress report**

Science, social studies, music, art and physical education are marked with these other indicators, as are areas such as personal and social growth. Please know that we highly value these aspects of your child’s individual development. In fact, parents can help their children to accelerate academic progress by supporting them in developing these important areas of personal growth and work habits!

Should you have questions regarding your child’s current progress, please contact his/her classroom teacher.

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