

**Regional School District 14
Towns of Bethlehem and Woodbury**



News from Our Schools

The Importance of Report Cards and Report Card Conferences

December 4, 2009

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Throughout Region 14, teachers at the elementary and middle school levels have either just finished or are in the process of completing report card conferences. At the high school, first marking period grades have been issued. Both the report card and the parent teacher conference are ways for school staff to inform parents of their child's academic progress. The report card provides parents with information on progress for specific subject matter, while the conferences and the written comments on report cards are intended to provide greater detail and guidance concerning your child's school progress. In addition to the grades, issuing report cards provides us with the opportunity to outline concrete steps that might be taken by the school, the parent(s) and, in the case of older children, the student him/herself in order to assist the student in meeting with greater success during the next reporting period. Our objective is to have the report card reflect what a student has learned or failed to learn over a period of time, serving as a snapshot of his/her performance. This information helps the teacher plan future instruction.

Here are a few suggestions for using your child's report card in a useful, purposeful way:

- Be certain your child understands why he received a particular grade. Once you realize the level of understanding your child has about what led him to this point you can more easily determine the next steps.
- If there is a problem area identified on the report card, ask your child if he has any idea what he needs to do to improve the situation. Students who are given the opportunity to discuss their performance and who become involved in making decisions about possible solutions often show greater interest in improving.
- Emphasize the importance of effort. This helps students understand that they have control over their success by making attempts and exerting their energies in a certain way.
- Continue to set and maintain high standards with sufficient support and encouragement for academic endeavors.

Report cards are just one way in which we measure student learning. It is our goal in Region 14 that report cards are viewed by teachers, parents, and students as a means of maintaining ongoing communication between home and school. With this valuable information, we can then work as partners in your child's education.

As always, thank you for your continued support and encouragement.

Sincerely,
Robert D. Cronin, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools

