

CONCORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
CONCORD-CARLISLE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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November 1, 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian:

We hope you are well and enjoying this beautiful fall season. During the month of November you will be offered a conference with your child's teacher to discuss your child's progress. In February, you will also receive a formal update through a Progress Report. There is no question that the COVID pandemic has had an impact on children's learning since March 2020. This is not unique to Concord; children throughout the world have experienced "interrupted learning" for the past 18 months. As a result, educators across the district are noting delays with some concepts and skills. This will likely be reflected in parent teacher conferences and progress reports.

The lengthy duration of interrupted learning means that students likely have gaps in their learning or are behind our usual grade level benchmarks. In the Concord Public Schools, there is a plan for addressing these gaps and lags. We have always had a robust benchmarking system to measure your child's progress in mastering end-of-year grade-level standards. Screening assessments are given in reading, writing, and mathematics. Each school has a team that reviews all students' data. If a student has gaps or is lagging, the school-based team makes a plan for intervening with individual students in those areas of concern. Each elementary school has multiple personnel to provide this instruction.

In the elementary schools, there are grade-level standards in Literacy, Mathematics, Science, Health, Social Studies, Art, Music, PE, and Library. This year, there are also proficiency levels in the learning of Spanish language. In order to measure your child's progress towards mastery of the grade-level standards, teachers typically review daily classroom work and projects, conference with individual students and administer performance assessments. This is reflected in your child's progress report.

Rest assured that the full curriculum will be taught in the Concord Public Schools this year. We are confident that your child is receiving a first rate education and that learning gaps will be addressed.

Our goal as a school and district is to ensure effective communication between home and school. Frequent parent-teacher communication, formal conferences, and the progress reports are intended to assist you in understanding your child's progress in academic achievement and social development. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your child's teacher, the School Principal, or the Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning.

Sincerely,

Kristen Herbert
Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning

Matthew Lucey
Principal, Willard School