



October 22, 2012

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As you may be aware, educational reform in the State of Wisconsin will be changing the way schools and educators are evaluated and students are assessed, all to promote greater student achievement.

The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) has issued a **School Report Card** for our school and for every public school in Wisconsin as part of the new statewide accountability system. The School Report Card, using multiple measures of student learning, provides valuable guidance on how Elmwood is performing and where we can improve.

With the School Report Cards, each public school earns a “score,” called an accountability index score, from 0 to 100. The score is based on our performance in four priority areas:

- **Student achievement** in reading and mathematics on state assessments
- **Student growth**, measured by year-to-year improvements in reading and math achievement
- **Closing gaps** in performance between specific student groups (comparing English language learners, low-income students, students with disabilities, and members of racial or ethnic group with their peers)
- **On-track to graduation/postsecondary readiness**, using reliable predictors of high school graduation and postsecondary success

It’s important to note that the 0 to 100 accountability index score is not a “percent correct” measurement. Instead, in combination with other school data, the score will help us determine our greatest strengths and where we need improvement.

A school’s score determines where it falls on a spectrum of categories ranging from “Significantly Exceeding Expectations” down to “Persistently Failing to Meet Expectations.”

Based on our school’s score of 82.0, we were placed into the category EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS. Our report card shows:

- Our Student Achievement in the areas of reading and math significantly exceed the state average.
- Our Student Achievement in math was only 0.04 points short of the maximum score. This made math our most notable area of growth.
- Our rates of proficiency in reading and math have remained consistent over the last 5 years.

This year we have identified a literacy goal which is designed to allow all students to make at least one year’s growth. We are fortunate to have multiple resources to help us monitor the progress of our students throughout the year. Our on-going professional development in Readers’ Workshop will help bring better

organization to our reading time. Our teachers will be providing instruction to students based on their individual needs. These needs will be determined through district assessments and 1-1 conferences.

We are also going to be paying very close attention to our students' growth in relation to their peers. The one area we'd like to greatly improve is our "Closing Gaps" score. We will do this by seeking out students that have not been making the same rate of growth as their peers and providing them with the tools they need to be as successful as the rest of the students in their grade.

We are confident the new School Report Card, as well as the many other changes being implemented in Wisconsin schools, will help our school identify our strengths and promptly move to address opportunities for improvement. For more information on School Report Cards, please visit the DPI website at www.dpi.wi.gov/oea/acct/accountability.html.

Please note: Our school is in a unique position in the State of Wisconsin as a K-6 school being compared, in this report, with K-5 schools throughout the state. Please be aware of this if you choose to compare our report card to other elementary school report cards.

If you have any questions about our School Report Card, please contact me. Thank you for your support of our school.

Sincerely,

Royce Lindner – Principal

Elmwood Elementary

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