



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.

Today the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) 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 Orchard Lane Elementary School 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 81.3, we were placed into the category Exceeds Expectations. Our report card shows:

- Our Student Achievement scores on the state reading and mathematics proficiency test are consistently above the state.
- Our school Priority Area scores for Student Achievement 89.1/100, Student Growth 73.7/100, and On-Track/Postsecondary Readiness 93.7/100 are above the state.
- Our third grade reading achievement score of 16.8/20 is higher than the state score of 11.3/20.

Orchard Lane has a lot to celebrate. Our scores and rating show students are succeeding and demonstrating academic growth. We pride ourselves on continuous improvement. The Orchard Lane staff is dedicated to the academic success of your child and the school. We have room for areas to focus on for improvement. We will continue to know each child as a learner to differentiate instruction in the areas of literacy and mathematics.

This will help our educators support each student to make the appropriate gains to be successful at each grade level. Our teachers are involved in on-going professional development at the school and district level in the areas of literacy, mathematics, technology and overall best practices. We use data to make decisions to keep our school moving forward and help us monitor our growth, successes and areas to strengthen.

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,

Amy Fare, Principal
Orchard Lane Elementary School
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Orchard Lane Staff and Students are shining STARS!