

August 2016

Dear Parents and Guardians:



Enclosed is your child’s Individual Student Report (ISR). The ISR provides information about your child’s performance on the Wisconsin Forward Exam. The Forward Exam was administered during the spring of 2016 in English language arts (ELA) and mathematics for students in grades 3-8, science for grades 4 and 8, and social studies for grades 4, 8, and 10. As part of the Wisconsin Student Assessment System, the Forward Exam is a large-scale, standardized achievement test designed to assess what students know in relation to the Wisconsin Academic Standards.

Remember that the ISR is just one of many indicators of your child’s academic performance. In order to obtain a more complete picture of your child’s areas of strength and growth, it is important to consider information from a variety of sources.

During the 2012-13 school year, Wisconsin raised the ELA and mathematics benchmark scores needed for students to reach the proficient or advanced performance levels. This more closely aligned performance levels on Wisconsin’s statewide assessments to National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) performance levels.

As of spring 2016, benchmark scores have now also been raised for the science and social studies assessments. This is a part of our work to raise expectations for students. As such, the Wisconsin Forward Exam results will show a decline in the number of students considered to be “proficient” or “advanced” for the science and social studies assessments and may also impact what category your student falls within. This decline does not indicate a drop in student performance, but rather is an outcome of extending the increased rigor expectation to all tested content areas. While reviewing the Individual Student Reports, keep in mind that the scoring change:

- Only applies to science and social studies, and
- Affects all students across the state taking science and social studies tests.

For more information on ISRs, please review the “What is an Individual Student Report” document on the back of this letter. Please also feel free to contact your child’s teacher or me with any questions.

Sincerely,

(Name and Contact Information for Principal)



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