

# Octorara Administration Office

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**Elena M. Tachau, Ed.D.**

Director of Curriculum and Instruction

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Dear K-6 Parents and Guardians:

As you may know, in grades K-6, the Octorara Area School District (OASD) is now utilizing standards-based grading and reporting. The purpose of a standards-based report card is to improve communication with parents and students about students' progress toward meeting end-of-grade level learning targets, which include essential skills and concepts at each grade level based on the PA Core Standards.

Standards-based grading and reporting allows parents and students to see which learning targets students have met (**M**), or are making steady progress toward (**SP**), and which ones need re-teaching or re-learning (**LP**). A standards-based report card provides specific information about what a student has **learned** by the end of the trimester. An overall letter grade (A, B, C, etc.) in a subject simply tells you what a student has **earned**. What you see reflected on the first trimester report card is your student's progress and performance towards the grade-level standards at this point in time.

On your student's report card, you will see an **M, SP, LP, or NA** next to each standard for the first trimester. For example, if the report card standard is "*riding a bicycle*" and the indicator is a(n):

**M:** it means that your student is consistently and independently riding a bicycle;

**SP:** it means that your student is riding a bicycle but still may need someone to hold on to the seat, or give them a push, or run alongside of her;

**LP:** it means that your student can ride a bicycle, but only with training wheels;

**NA:** it means that the standard was not yet taught and/or assessed at this time.

Most standards are end-of-grade learning targets, so it is not unusual for students to have very few **M**'s at the end of the first trimester. The goal is for students to be "on-track" or making steady progress (**SP**) towards meeting each learning target. Please note that while you may have seen **M**'s reflected on rubrics for common unit assessments, that may not necessarily translate to meeting (**M**) the entire standard on the report card. Often, what you see on the unit assessments, especially in math, are specific skills that are being assessed as only part of the overall standard you see on the report card. All of the standards on the report card are end-of-grade level expectations.

It is our hope that the standards-based report cards provide you with more specific information regarding your student's progress. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact your student's teacher, building principal, or me. I also hope you will consider providing us with your input by completing a brief survey found at the link below:

[SBG Parent Feedback Survey](#)

For more information, please see the District website: <https://www.octorara.k12.pa.us/Page/1910>. There you will find copies of the report cards for each grade level and trimester rubrics for Math and ELA that provide the descriptors for each progress standard and progress level.

Thank you for your support as we continue to maximize opportunities for your student's success.

Sincerely,

Elena M. Tachau, Ed.D.

*Maximizing Opportunities for Success*