



Oak Lawn-Hometown SD 123 Parent Guide to Student Progress Reporting

2010-2011 Academic Calendar

Beginning with the 2010-2011 school year, all grade levels will work with an academic calendar based on three reporting periods (trimesters). Basing the calendar on trimesters allows for the formal reporting process to more closely align with the district assessment cycle and use test results to report on student progress. The three trimesters are longer in duration than the four-quarter calendar and allow students more time to meet benchmark performance standards in all content areas.

Trimester 1- August 23 - November 22
Trimester 2- November 23 - March 4
Trimester 3- March 8 - June 2

Midtrimester 1- October 8
Midtrimester 2- January 21
Midtrimester 3- April 21



Progress Reports

Students in Kindergarten through 8th grade will receive a progress report at the midpoint of each trimester. The purpose of this reporting is to describe students' progress in meeting the district's learning and behavioral expectations for each marking period. The progress report is intended to inform parents about their child's learning successes and to give guidance for improvement efforts when needed.

Student Self-Assessment and Goal Setting - Students will be given the opportunity to reflect on their accomplishments and set goals for their own learning for each trimester. This information will be included on the progress report document that will be sent home at the midpoint of the trimester.

Parent Self-Assessment of Student Support - A key component in the two-way communication of student progress will be the opportunity for parents to assess their efforts in supporting their child's academic successes at home.

Life Skills/Expectations - Teachers will assess each child's efforts in meeting the life skill expectations as indicated in the district's Positive Behavior Intervention Systems (PBIS) code of conduct.



Assessments

Students in District 123 schools take many tests or assessments over the course of the year. Every assessment has its own purpose and provides different kinds of information. There are two types of assessments that are used in most schools: summative and formative. Summative assessments are typically those standardized high-stakes tests that are given to measure benchmark-learning standards. Summative testing is designed to answer the question, "Did students learn?"

Formative assessment is the process of assessing students during or prior to instruction for the purposes of determining whether an instructional program is effective for individual students. Formative evaluation is designed to answer the question "Are students learning?"

Assessments Utilized

- **Illinois Standards Achievement Test (ISAT)** - The ISAT is a summative evaluation that measures a student's mastery of concepts and skills related to the Illinois Learning Standards. The assessment is administered in March, and results are typically ready for distribution in the fall of the following year. Students in grades 3-8 take ISATs in Reading and Math, and students in grades 4 and 7 take an ISAT in Science.
- **Developmental Reading Assessment - 2nd Edition (DRA2®)** - This formative assessment provides teachers with information on the reading levels of the students in their classrooms. The DRA2® is administered three times a year (fall, winter, spring) to all students in grades K-5 and identified students in grades 6-8.
- **NWEA/MAP®** - The Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) test is a formative assessment that measures student progress and growth in the areas of reading and math. Assessment results are used by teachers to provide instruction appropriate to student needs. A detailed report that charts student growth over time is distributed to parents at the conclusion of each testing session.
- **ACT EXPLORE®** - The EXPLORE® test assesses academic progress of 8th grade students and helps them understand and begin to explore the wide range of careers open to them. The assessment also assists students in developing a high school coursework plan that prepares them to achieve their post-high school goals. The EXPLORE test results are used by area high schools to determine course placement for students' freshman year. This year's test will be administered to all 8th grade students on October 28th.

2010-2011 Assessment Dates

DRA2®- September 7-24
January 5-26
May 2-20

NWEA/MAP®- September 27 – October 15
April 26 – May 20

ISAT – March 1-11



Parent-Teacher Conferences

Scheduled conferences are another means of communicating student progress between teachers and parents. Parent-teacher conferences are highly interactive and individualized opportunities for focusing on the following topics: (1) What is the student able to do? (2) What areas require further attention or skill development? (3) What help or support does the student need to be successful? (4) How is the student doing in relation to established learning standards for students in a similar age range or grade level?

This year's conferences are scheduled to occur just prior to the end of the first trimester and will focus on the areas listed above.

Friday, November 5th (5:00-8:00 PM) - OLHMS

Thursday, November 11th (5:00-8:00 PM) - K-5 Schools

Friday, November 12th (8:30-11:30 AM) - All Schools (*No school for students*)

Monday, November 22nd (5:00-8:00 PM) - All Schools

Tuesday, November 23rd (8:30-11:30 AM) - All Schools (*No school for students*)



Oak Lawn-Hometown School District 123 - MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Oak Lawn-Hometown Elementary School District 123, as a district striving for excellence, is to ensure that each student learns the skills, acquires the knowledge, and develops the behaviors and attitudes necessary to succeed in the future as a caring, responsible and productive citizen; this mission is accomplished through a challenging instructional program that is consistent with the state and local goals provided by a caring and talented staff within a safe and healthy environment in partnership with the entire community.