



# LOUDONVILLE

## CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

### What is a skills-based report card?

A skills-based report card highlights the most important skills students should learn in each subject at a particular grade level. In our lower school, students will receive report cards three times a year. Benchmarks for each of the trimester marking periods are used to determine if a student is progressing toward appropriate grade-level understanding.

### What is a trimester marking period?

Our skills-based report card is based on three marking periods: November, March, and June. Teachers will use the marking period grading benchmarks to evaluate student progress. Benchmarks often change each trimester to reflect new standards and expectations for student growth. Our change from quarter reporting to trimester reporting is designed to give teachers and students more adequate time for teaching and learning.



### What are the proficiency levels on the new report card?

The proficiency level represents a student's progress on the report card. There are four categories: 1 - 4.

Earning a "4" means the student has advanced understanding and exceeds grade-level expectations. A student receiving a "4" demonstrates academically superior skills in that specific area. This student shows initiative, challenges him or herself, and demonstrates this advanced knowledge at school. A "4" is difficult to obtain and indicates an unusually high level of achievement.

Earning a "3" means the student has proficient understanding and meets grade-level expectations. We want all of our student to reach a level "3." A student receiving a "3" is right on track with our high academic expectations. A "3" is something to be celebrated!

Earning a "2" means the student has basic understanding and partially meets grade-level expectations. A student receiving a "2" should indicate to parents that their child may need some extra support or times to practice/understand that concept or skill.

Earning a "1" means the student has minimal understanding and does not meet grade-level expectations. A student receiving a "1" indicates that a student needs intentional support to demonstrate an understanding of important grade-level learning.

Please keep in mind that these numbers are not indicators of linear performance from trimester to trimester; rather they are reflective of the goals for the current trimester. For example, your child may receive a "2" in a content skill in one trimester, but s/he may not automatically receive a "3" in that same content skill in the next trimester. This is reflective of the natural progression of skills and curriculum benchmarks that change developmentally throughout the school year.

We want parents to recognize that our teaching and assessments are directed at ensuring that all students have an opportunity to meet our curriculum standards. Different students progress at different rates, so standards may be met in varying amounts of time, with varying amounts of teacher support.



### How do teachers determine proficiency levels?

Teachers determine which proficiency level your child has earned by using a report card benchmark. A report card benchmark outlines exactly what your child needs to know or be able to do to earn a 4, 3, 2, or 1 on the report card.

Throughout the trimester, teachers assess students. With the standards for that grade level in mind, they consider:

- knowledge of the child (How does this student learn best? In what way does this child communicate his/her learning?);
- evidence of student performance (work samples collected, student performance on activities and assessments, teacher anecdotal notes);
- knowledge of what the child is expected to know or be able to do (report card benchmarks)

After this process, the teacher assigns a proficiency level for each line of the report card.

### Will there be conference opportunities available to discuss my child's progress?

Yes. A parent-teacher conference day is scheduled at the end of the first trimester. Parents may always reach out to teachers to arrange a conference at any time during the school year.