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Superintendent of Schools

## SCHOOL DISTRICT OF CLAY COUNTY

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Dear Parent or Guardian,

In 2010, governors and education commissioners from across the nation along with a diverse group of teachers, experts, parents and school administrators developed the Common Core State Standards. Florida, along with 47 other states adopted these standards for the purpose of ensuring a more rigorous education for students and ultimately, a more qualified workforce for America's employers. The State of Florida requires all reading, writing and mathematics standards be fully implemented in kindergarten, first and second grade by the 2013-2014 school year.

In alignment with the new standards, a new reporting system will be used in grades K-2. This report card communicates student progress using a growth scale that assesses a child's individual understanding of concepts and skills at key points during the year. A growth model differs from a traditional grading scale because it measures progress toward mastery. "Mastery" is defined as "meeting the standard" and is not expected until the end of the year.

The report card you will receive each quarter will identify your child's progress toward mastery of specific skills or concepts. Standards have been appropriately paced throughout the year to ensure that the more difficult skills are taught first to allow more time for mastery.

- A blank field indicates that the skill has not yet been taught or assessed.
- A "\ " means that the skill or concept has been taught and with additional time and support, your child should achieve mastery by the end of the year.
- Areas of concern are marked with an "X".

An overall rating is assigned quarterly to each domain; Reading Literature, Reading Informational Text, Writing, etc., in which the standards are comprised. The domains are reported using the following scale:

- M= Student has independently and consistently demonstrated mastery of the standard
- P = Student is making sufficient and expected progress toward mastery
- I = Student is making insufficient progress and is in need of remediation and additional support

During the first half of the year, students are moving beyond the remediation of pre-requisite skills and are being introduced to many new grade level standards. Most students will be making progress, some may meet portions of a particular standard but few are expected to "master" the standard before the end of the year. A student receiving a "P" is on track for learning and unless otherwise indicated by the teacher, there is no cause for concern and your child's progress should be celebrated.

For the fourth quarter, each domain is marked as "M" for mastered or "I" for not mastered. This in no way correlates to retention but rather an indication that one or more standards/skills within that domain were not consistently met. In most cases, students will receive remediation at the next grade level. However, when a student has significant areas of concern, retention may be in his/her best interest.

I encourage you to schedule a conference with your child's teacher if you have any questions about your child's progress.

Sincerely,

Diane S. Kornegay, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction

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