

## **Report Card Information Sheet**

This year, students will receive a newly formatted report card. This new report card is an extension of Orangeville Christian School's Assessment and Evaluation policy. Our policy is founded on the principles outlined in the Ontario Ministry of Education document entitled, "Growing Success". The focus of this handout is to provide information for parents to help clarify roles, changes and details about the new report card.

### **What role do I have as a parent?**

Parent(s) are vital partners in education. Students experience more success at school when parents are involved, especially when they receive clear, meaningful information about how their child is progressing. Both the Assessment and Evaluation policy and the new report cards have been created to help meet our goal to improve student learning and enhance the communication between home and school.

### **When are the reporting periods?**

Orangeville Christian School (OCS) has two reporting periods. Term 1 is from September to February and the term 2 is from February to June. The students also receive a Progress Report in October.

### **What is new and different?**

Our new report cards will indicate how well your child is developing in the areas of learning skills, work habits and social skills. Through modeling and direct teaching of the six learning skills, teachers encourage and support students in their acquisition and development. The six learning skills include Responsibility, Independent Work, Initiative, Organization, Collaboration and Self-Regulation and appear on the first page of the report card. Your child's assessment will be communicated using the indicators Excellent, Good, Satisfactory, & Needs Improvement. This section of the report card will also include a place for teachers to provide descriptive feedback that will highlight student progress, identify strengths as well as make recommendations for areas of improvement. The comments from your child's teacher will be clear, personalized and meaningful to ensure understanding of how your child is progressing in these areas.

The letter grades (Grades 1-6) and the percentage marks (Grades 7-8) will be based on student achievement as set out by the Provincial Curriculum Expectations from the Ministry of Education. Each term, personalized comments will be provided in the areas of Bible, literacy, and numeracy. Teachers may also comment on other subject areas throughout the year and these comments will reflect on student progress; identify significant strengths and difficulties; and provide next steps for student improvement.

### **How do the teachers determine my child's grades?**

The primary purpose of assessment and evaluation is to improve student learning. Information gathered through assessment helps teachers to determine students' strengths and weaknesses in their achievement of the curriculum expectations in each subject in each grade. The purpose of the report card is to communicate how well your child has achieved the overall curriculum expectations for each subject at the end of a period of learning (e.g., end of term 1 and 2).

In order to ensure that assessment and evaluation are valid and reliable, and that they lead to the improvement of student learning, teachers use assessment and evaluation strategies that:

- address both what the students learn and how well they learn;
- are varied in nature, administered over a period of time, and designed to provide opportunities for students to demonstrate the full range of their learning;
- are appropriate for the learning activities used, the purpose of instruction, and the needs and experiences of the students;
- are fair to all students;
- accommodate students with special education needs, consistent with the strategies outlined in

- their Individual Education Plan (IEP);
- accommodate the needs of the students who are learning the language of instruction;
- ensure that each student is given clear directions for improvement;
- promote students' ability to assess their own learning and to set specific goals and include the use of samples of students' work that provide evidence of their achievement;
- teachers will consider the quality of all evidence that has been collected over time using a variety of methods. The teacher will consider:
  - all assignments for evaluation and tests that were completed or submitted;
  - the number of assignments for evaluation and tests that were not completed or submitted; and;
  - evidence of achievement that is available for each overall expectation for a subject.
- Teachers will use their professional judgment to interpret the evidence and then will assign a letter or percentage grade.

### **What about homework?**

Homework is used to help develop study skills, organizational skills and consolidate knowledge. In addition, homework is a tool used to encourage and foster the growth of the learning skills, work habits and social skills included on the new report card.

### **What does "R" mean on the report card?**

An "R" means extensive remediation is needed to meet the required skills and knowledge of the subject area. It is important to work with your child's teacher to develop support strategies to acquire the required knowledge and skills.

### **What does "I" mean on the report card?**

An "I" means the teacher did not have enough information to assign a grade or mark. For example, a student may have begun school recently or illness has resulted in an extended absence from school.

### **What does "NA" mean on the report card?**

A "NA" or blank space means that this subject or strand did not warrant sufficient evidence to provide an achievement mark. For example, not all strands of the math program are taught each term.

### **What are the standards used to evaluate students?**

The Provincial Curriculum Expectations created by the Ministry of Education clearly outlines the expectations for students with regards to achievement in all subject areas. Each student is assessed and evaluated using these provincial standards. Students are not measured against other students in the class.

### **Why change the report card and introduce a new Assessment and Evaluation policy at OCS?**

Both the report cards and Assessment and Evaluation Policy were introduced with the goal to improve student learning. Providing an innovative Christian learning environment requires knowledge and implementation of best practices in education. The fundamental principles of successful assessment and evaluation are imbedded in these new changes. Good assessment promotes good learning and these principles clearly align with the mission and vision of Orangeville Christian School.