

Union Elementary School

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Our schools are caring, creative, and equitable communities that empower all children to build on their talents and passions to grow into engaged citizens and life long learners.

January 11, 2021

Dear UES Families,

We are about to hit the halfway point of the school year, and with that milestone comes the first report card of the year. The January Report Card will be sent home with students on February 1, 2021 in a sealed envelope.

Your child's report card will have a lot of information on it that may not be familiar to some of you, and I'd like to share a few thoughts on the developmental scales we are using to describe your child's progress. It's important that we not look at the numbers on the report card as the traditional final grades (A, B, C, etc.) that most of us are used to -- the following scale is what you'll see on the first page:

- 1 - Beginning to show growth toward grade level expectations
- 2 - Making progress toward grade level expectations
- 3 - Meets grade level expectations
- 4 - Exceeds grade level expectations

What you see here is a developmental scale based on *growth and progress*. The numbers themselves should not be looked at as final grades; in other words, a "1" should not be considered an "F", nor should a "4" be considered an "A". The numbers simply indicate how your student is progressing at the halfway point of this school year.

Meeting grade level expectations, a "3", is the targeted benchmark for our students, but there will be numerous situations where a majority of our students aren't quite there yet given that we're only halfway through the year. It's important to know, however, that areas in which a child is falling short of that expectation (a "1" or "2") still indicate progress or growth. Something else important to consider is that this first report card should be compared to the growth and progress indicated on the report card you receive at the end of the year in June. In other words, *making progress* toward grade level expectations in January will hopefully lead to *meeting* grade level expectations in June!

It goes without saying this year has been unlike other years in many ways. We have been able to teach the majority of standards and content we would like students to learn but some reductions have been made based on time available. Specifically, formal assessments for social studies and science have been

reduced. For that reason, you may see less grading in those two areas. There may be some other areas in which an NA (not applicable) is provided as that specific content has not yet been taught or has been taught but not assessed. Prioritizing the most critical skills and standards has been an effective way to ensure students are provided with a solid foundation as they move through the grade levels at UES towards a successful transition at Main Street Middle School.

I hope this information is helpful to you, and many of you will have some questions when you first take a look at this report card. We welcome these questions and have reserved the week of February 8th as a time for you to meet with your child's teacher. **Your child's teacher will be contacting you directly to schedule an appointment.** March 26th is also a date reserved for families to meet with parents / caregivers. Please feel free to contact me or your teacher any time before or after the report card comes home if you have questions or would like more information about grading, assessment, or your child's progress at UES.

Please call or email with any questions.

Sincerely,

Ryan Heraty

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