Q: Is this only for elementary levels?
A: Yes, grades K-6.

Q: When are the report card dates?
A: For the 2012-13 school year the dates will be November 30, March 15 and June 20.

Q: Will parent/teacher conference opportunities change to coincide with the new report card dates?
A: Yes

Q: How will a standards-based report card affect the length of the report card?
A: It will not.

Q: Will we continue to receive the report card in paper form?
A: Yes

Q: Are other districts in New York State and around the country using the standards-based report cards?
A: Yes. We considered a variety of scoring methods and looked at many districts’ scoring systems prior to developing the new report card. There are many school districts in Central New York who have gone to the standards-based report cards.

Q: With this new grading system, will students still get numerical grades on tests, papers and homework?
A: Teachers will be providing feedback based on classroom instruction in a number of ways.

Q: Can you provide sample report cards before the end of the 1st trimester so that parents can see the value of the details now?
A: Yes. Samples can be viewed at the end of this document.

Q: Will the first and second trimesters be assessed against the end of the year expectations? In other words, should we expect to see 1s and 2s until the end of the year or 3s for all three trimesters?
A: Skills are broken up by trimesters with specific expectations for each period.

Q: Will grades be used to group students into different learning groups in the next academic year?
A: Classes will always be created heterogeneously, with students of various strengths in each classroom.

Q: How is the student handled who does not meet the “standards”?
A: The new report card will specify weak areas for reinforcement in school and home. Interventions will be put in place at school as needed.

Q: Will our students be challenged to exceed expectations? Are we content with just meeting expectations?
A: While students will be made aware of what is needed to meet expectations, the staff will continue to challenge the students at all levels.

Q: How will the students be educated on the new style and standards?
A: This will be the responsibility of the classroom teacher.

Q: What was wrong with the way it was being done?
A: As is true in all aspects of our lives, changes are made as ideas evolve. The new report cards will help focus on what your child can do and areas where they can improve.

Q: Is this an attempt to deliver “trophies for everybody”?
A: No. The new report cards were designed to give parents specific and clear information about student progress.

Q: Will the new report card change the way students are instructed in the classroom?
A: Instruction has changed to meet the demands of the Common Core Learning Standards. The report card reflects these changes.