



VISION: Our learning community inspires, engages, and empowers students to become lifelong learners and productive global citizens.

A Parent's Guide To Progress Reports

Our Commitment to Providing the Best Information About Student Learning

This guide has been created to provide parents with information about the student progress reports used in the Mill Valley School District. Reporting student progress is an essential part of communication and our partnership between home and school.

The progress report provides a snapshot of student learning that reflects:

- Grade-level expectations and standards
- Student achievement of and progress toward independently meeting expectations
- Where help and support are needed

Students are evaluated on their individual progress toward achieving the standards and skills of their specific grade level.

The Common Core academic standards adopted by the state of California are used as the basis for the grading criteria used in each subject area. The markings reported for each line item on the progress report along with the written narrative comments are intended to communicate a comprehensive picture of how your child is performing in school.

Markings are based on student expectations at the end of each trimester. Teacher comments are written in an effort to create a comprehensive picture and foster understanding of the progress and learning needs of each student. The progress report highlights the areas of focus making the need for extensive comments less necessary.



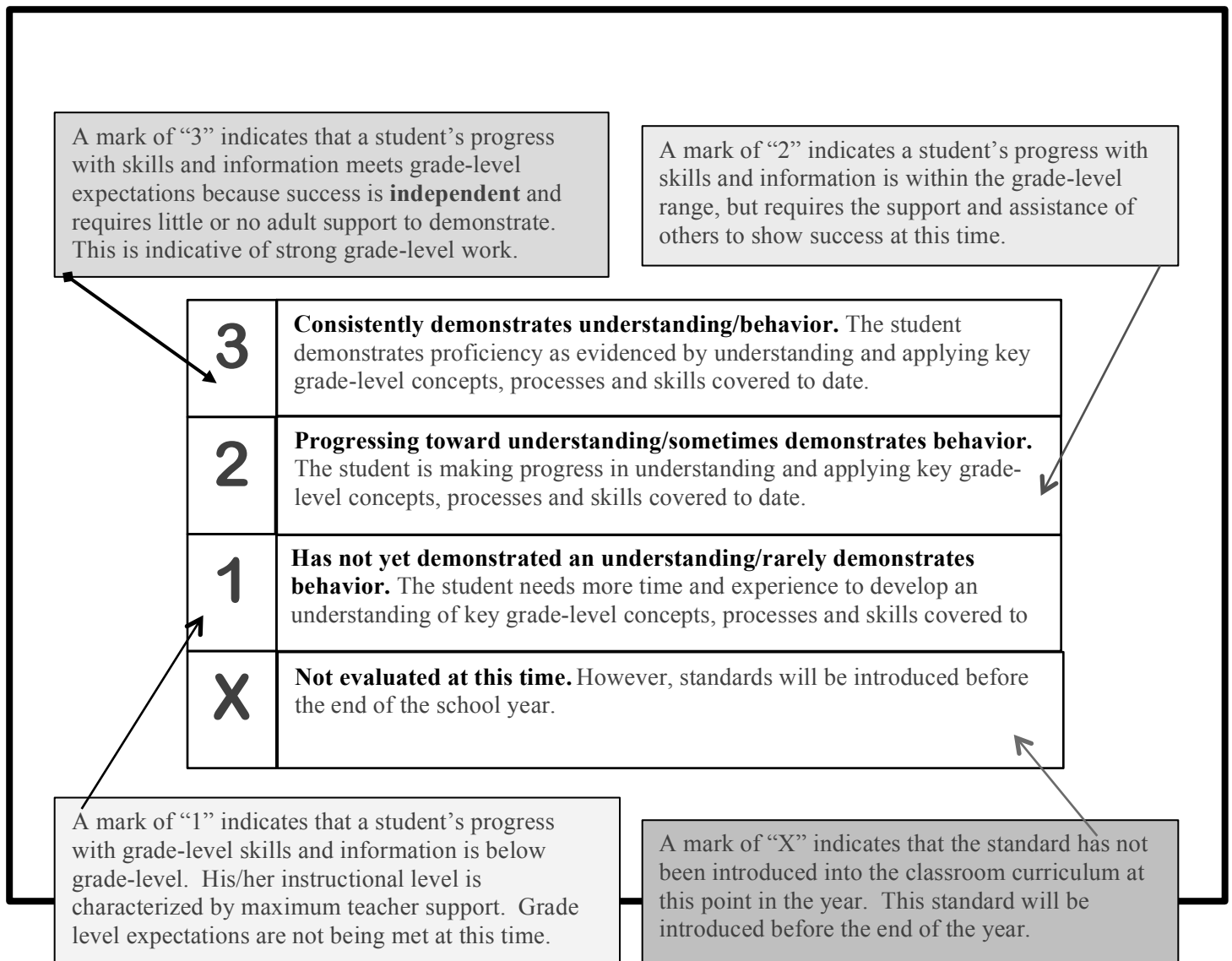
Mill Valley School District operates on a trimester system:

- 1st trimester progress reports will be distributed at fall conferences
- 2nd trimester progress reports will be distributed in March
- 3rd trimester progress reports will be sent on the last day of school

Understanding the Performance Levels

Teachers use these performance levels to report individual progress with the Content Standards in academic areas.

On the performance levels, the numbers are not significant in themselves. Rather, the focus is on the descriptor that corresponds with each number and explains both the progress toward meeting grade-level standards and the degree to which the student is performing.



Using this “Standards Based” Progress Report, it is important to note:

- Marks of “2” or “3” BOTH indicate that a student is working within the expectations of his/her grade level. *The difference is the level of independence and support with which the student works.*
- A mark of “1” indicates that a student is not making the progress expected given the time spent on the topic in the classroom. A mark at this level indicates performance is below grade level expectations and may require dialogue with the teacher.

Why Are the Common Core State Standards Important?

The Common Core State Standards are important because they will help all children learn the same skills nationwide. They create clear expectations for what your child should know and be able to do in key areas: reading, writing, speaking and listening, language and mathematics.

If you know what these expectations are, then you can work with the teacher and help your child succeed. There will be several shifts in what your child is doing in the classroom.

In Language Arts-

- Your child will now read more non-fiction in each grade level.
- Your child will read challenging texts closely, so s/he can make sense of what s/he reads and draw his/her own conclusions.
- When it comes to writing or retelling a story, your child will use “evidence” gathered from the text to support what s/he says.
- Your child will learn how to write from what s/he reads.
- Your child will have an increased academic vocabulary.

In Mathematics-

- Your child will work deeply in fewer topics to ensure full understanding.
- Your child will keep building on learning year after year, after establishing a strong foundation.
- Your child will understand why the math works and be asked to talk about and prove their understanding.
- Your child will be asked to **use math in real-world situations.**



When talking to your child’s teacher:

Keep the conversations focused on the key topics.

These include:

- Reading grade-level text with understanding and fluency
- Enjoying learning from getting facts from books s/he reads and listens to

In math, your child will be:

- Using math concepts in real-world situations
- Explaining his or her thinking and the strategies used to find solutions

K-8 California's Common Core Standards Three-Minute Video:

<https://www.cde.ca.gov/re/cc/tl/whatareccss.asp>

This three-minute video, provided by the Council of Great City Schools (CGCS), explains how the CCSS will help students achieve at high levels and help them learn what they need to know to get to graduation and beyond.

Common Core State Standards Resources for Parents and Guardians:

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/re/cc/ccssresourcesparents.asp>

This website lists resources that have been compiled for parents and guardians interested in learning more about the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and how to support their child's attainment of these standards.

California PTA Parent Guides to the Common Core State Standards:

<http://capta.org/focus-areas/education/common-core/>

This website references publications that detail what your child will be learning, at each grade level, in Mathematics and English Language Arts once the Common Core State Standards are in place. You'll also learn more about how you can support your child's learning and other helpful information.