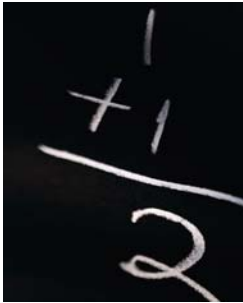


## Where can I see what's on the report cards?

The report card rubrics for Grades K, 1, 2, and 3 are available from the School System's website at <http://www.newtoncountyschools.org/departments/elementary.asp>.

These scoring guides are what the teachers use to mark the performance level of students on each standard.



## Measuring Student Performance

Each grade level stipulates specific learning standards that students must master in the areas of reading and language arts, math, science, and social studies. A standards-based report card gives students, parents, and teachers a clear picture of what their children know and are able to do. Each quarter, teachers report student progress in relation to their expected levels of performance at that given time of the year.

## NEWTON COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM MISSION STATEMENT

*The mission of the Newton County School System is to provide educational excellence for all students.*

## What Can I Do to Help My Child Achieve the Standards?

- Ask your child specific questions about school and listen to and comment on their answers.
- Examine the report card documents so that you will know what your child is expected to learn and master (available at <http://www.newtoncountyschools.org/departments/elementary.asp>).
- Provide games, puzzles, and books. Allow your child to work with these materials independently and with you.
- Monitor television and movie viewing.
- Read to and with your child daily if possible.
- Keep your child well-rested and offer a well-balanced diet.
- Visit the library with your child.
- Let your child see you reading and talk often with your child about yourself as a life-long learner.
- Maintain an open and on-going dialogue with your child's teacher.
- Provide many opportunities for your child to write even though you may not recognize all the words. For example, ask the child to make a list of items they want from the grocery store and then go over the list.

## NEWTON COUNTY SCHOOLS

*2109 Newton Drive N. E.  
Covington, GA 30015*

## Standards-Based Report Cards Linking Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment



### 1st Grade - 3rd Grade

*An Informational Guide  
for Parents  
2011-2012*

**Dr. Gary S. Mathews**  
Superintendent of Schools

## Reporting Student Progress on the Georgia Performance Standards

Teams of Newton County teachers, along with the guidance and support of school administrators and the Curriculum and Instruction Division, have developed standards-based report cards for grades K—3. The purpose of these report cards is threefold:

1. To communicate the achievement status of students on learning standards
2. To evaluate the effectiveness of instructional programs
3. To promote student learning

These report cards are designed to provide parents with the most accurate, fair, and useful information about their child's progress in school. Each quarter, students have multiple opportunities to practice, attain, and demonstrate mastery of the Georgia Performance Standards (for more information on Georgia Performance Standards visit [www.georgiastandards.org](http://www.georgiastandards.org)).



### Performance Level Descriptors

The standards-based report card uses numerical and letter indicators of student performance to show progress on the grade level standards each quarter.

Key to Academic Achievement and Special Areas Performance Standards				
<b>4</b> Exceeding the Standards	<b>3</b> Meeting the Standards	<b>2</b> Progress towards Meeting the Standards	<b>1</b> Little or No Progress towards Meeting the Standards	<b>N/A</b> Not Assessed at this time
<b>S</b> Successful	<b>P</b> Progressing	<b>N</b> Needs Improvement		

### What Do These Numbers and Letters Mean?

A score of 4 means that the student is able to independently and consistently demonstrate the learning goal AND that the student is able to go beyond the expected level of performance. A score of 3 indicates that the student can consistently demonstrate mastery of the learning goal. If a student is making some progress, but has not yet met the standard, a score of 2 will be assigned. A score of 1 indicates that the student is generally unable to demonstrate the learning goal even with assistance and guidance.

A score of S means the student has been successful in meeting the learning goal. P means the child is progressing and N means the child needs to show improvement.

It is important to note that the requirements to meet the standards increases each quarter; therefore, it is quite possible for a child to score a 3 the first quarter and then make a 2 the second quarter.

## How Does a Teacher Grade a Child's Performance?

Using the Georgia Performance Standards as a guide, teacher committees establish curriculum priorities for each grading period. Quarterly scoring guides provide teachers with consistent learning expectations. Educational research tells us that effective assessment of student progress must be balanced in terms of format and frequency.

No one assessment experience can reliably and accurately measure student progress on a particular standard. Therefore, teachers design multiple assessment tasks and collect evidence of student learning throughout the grading period. This evidence may include tests, quizzes, teacher observations, projects, district, state and national assessments, and student work samples. Teachers review these assessments for evidence of mastery of learning when marking student progress for the report card.

It is important to keep in mind that the report card is only one part of an effective reporting system. The key to making the most of this report card is on-going, open dialogue between the parent and the teacher. **It is strongly encouraged that parents participate in parent-teacher conferences when they are scheduled.**