

# Barker Central School

1628 QUAKER ROAD, BARKER, NEW YORK 14012-0328

Fax 716.795.3394

**Michael Carter**

Principal

716/795-3201

[mcarter@barkercsd.net](mailto:mcarter@barkercsd.net)

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To Pratt Elementary Families:

We hope this letter finds our students and families enjoying the summer break. After nearly half a year of distance-learning, please use this time to relax and recharge with one another as much as possible.

This communication is regarding changes to our elementary school report cards for the coming 2020-2021 school year. Last summer, we began the process of transitioning from a letter/numerical grade to a standards-based form of instruction and assessment. This ultimately means that our school's report cards will be making a change in how we communicate student progress. Families may be used to seeing letter grading (such as an "A" or a "B") or a numerical grade (like 90%), along with teacher comments. Report cards also looked different from one grade level to another.

A standards-based approach to reporting student progress will directly link progress in the classroom with state learning standards and objectives. This will give teachers, parents, and even students a clearer picture of progress. The report cards will have the key standards for each subject area. They will be marked with the student's progress in relation to each standard. Also, each grade level has a "Social Skills & Work Habits" section. This will give families a clear picture of how these characteristics (ex: peer interactions, attitude, self-control, etc.) are progressing throughout the year.

We will also be making the change from four quarters being reported to three trimesters. This will allow a more robust amount of student learning information to be processed and reported, especially in the first third of the year. The dates of the closure of each trimester are listed below:

- December 4: end of first trimester
- March 19: end of second trimester
- June 18: end of third trimester

Please see the links on this webpage for the exact report card that corresponds to your child's grade level.

If you have any questions at all, please do not hesitate to phone the school. We hope you are all enjoying the summer. Please be well and stay safe.

Michael Carter  
PreK-12 Principal, Barker CSD  
[mcarter@barkercsd.net](mailto:mcarter@barkercsd.net)