



January, 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The purpose of this letter is to share some information about the new science segment that will appear on our K-5 report cards.

New Science Standards: As a result of the new Next Generation Science Standards being adopted in the State of Washington, NTPS has made significant shifts to our science curriculum and instructional approach over the last few years. At the elementary level, the final stage of this shift is to align our grading and reporting to these new standards.

Shift in Grading Practices: A district-wide committee redesigned our grading system to focus on the Science and Engineering Practices (SEPs). These practices are essential for students to successfully transition to middle and then high school, equipping them with the skills necessary to deeply understand and apply the rigorous science content they will be learning.

We are sharing this with you now, because this 1st semester will be the first time these practices appear on the elementary report card as we make the transition.

Impact on the Report Card: It is likely that only a few of the Science and Engineering Practices (SEPs) will be assessed this first year of implementation and that more will be reported 2nd semester than 1st. Teachers will be using a scale of 1-3 with 3 being an indication that the student is meeting grade level expectations. The target is that progress toward all 8 SEPs will be reported at least once on the report card each year beginning with the 2020-2021 school year.

The 8 Science and
Engineering Practices
in the Next Generation
Science Standards:

Scientific and Engineering
Practices

- ▶ Asking questions or defining problems
- ▶ Developing and using models
- ▶ Planning and carrying out investigations
- ▶ Analyzing and interpreting data
- ▶ Using mathematics and computational thinking
- ▶ Constructing explanations and designing solutions
- ▶ Engaging in argument from evidence
- ▶ Obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information

We are excited about this shift in our science grading practices at the elementary level and appreciate your support as we make it. We truly feel that this will better prepare our students to acquire and exhibit the practices essential to being successful in science.

Warm regards,

Joyce Mackiewicz
Director of Math & Science