

## Leonard Middle School December Board Report

Grades closed on a great first trimester on December 1. Report cards went home on December 8. The second page of this report is a letter we included in the report cards about proficiency-based reporting. Proficiency-based learning and reporting begins with the idea that every student can and will learn so the report card is about growth and achieving goals. There are no failures, students learn and progress at varied rates so we look at each student as an individual and help them continue to grow.

Congratulations to the Coyote Pups Robotics Team for their commendable achievement at the State Robotics Tournament last Saturday. The team placed 6<sup>th</sup> out of 60 teams in Robot Game and brought home two very important awards: first place in sportsmanship and first place in innovative solution for their invention of a water filtration system. Great work Coyote Pups!

I am certain several of you have attended some of the holiday concerts. Last week was our choral holiday concert as pictured below. The LMS Bands will have their concert on this Thursday night, December 14th, at 7:00PM at Hauck Auditorium at UM.



The River Runners enjoyed their first retreat as a cohort on Friday morning. They spent their time at the Old Town-Orono YMCA engaged in team-building activities. This was the first step in helping the students build strong relationships with one another and in growing their leadership skills. They enjoyed their time together and most loved the spider web challenge.

Respectfully Submitted,

David Crandall

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## **156 Oak St Old Town, ME 04468**



Dear LMS Families,

At Leonard Middle School we are continuing to implement proficiency-based learning and reporting. Many of you may know this as “standards-based” which has the same meaning. Our community has learned a lot about this philosophical shift over the past several years but because the report looks very different from what many parents are accustomed to, we thought it would be helpful to provide this brief guide to interpreting the report card. Please use this guide to better understand your student’s report and to generate conversations at home related to goal setting and academic and behavioral achievement.

### **Why all the blank space?**

This report prints all standards associated with a course to give a complete picture of what will be covered during an academic year. As these standards are taught and assessed, summary scores are recorded. Standards without scores for trimester one will be taught and assessed later in the school year.

### **My student is meeting and exceeding standards, what does that mean?**

Meeting and exceeding standards is what all students aim to do. Meeting a standard represents mastery and exceeding a standard shows that a student consistently demonstrates an advanced level of mastery and/or the ability to apply knowledge at a higher level.

### **My student is partially meeting a standard, should I be concerned?**

Students partially meet academic standards when they are working toward mastery but are not yet there. Mastery of a skill is being able to demonstrate proficiency independently and consistently and not all kids reach mastery at the same time. Proficiency-based scoring affords the flexibility to reteach and reassess standards throughout the school year and even update proficiency scores as students reach a higher level of mastery.

### **My student is not meeting a standard, should I be concerned?**

To score a Does Not Meet the Standard (DM) there is either insufficient assessment data to accurately assess a student’s proficiency in that area or the student has demonstrated that they are not building proficiency in that area. Generally, the score indicates the latter, unless otherwise indicated in the comments. These scores indicate areas where students need to put in significant effort to reach academic mastery and should be viewed as an academic priority. They are an opportunity for growth.

### **How can I help my student improve his/her academic proficiency?**

Not all students reach mastery at the same time and students don’t have to meet or exceed every standard to be successful students. The best thing you can do to support your student in reaching high academic goals is to focus on two sections of the report; comments associated

with student scores and the section titled “Habits of Work, Citizenship, & Presence”. Each teacher in our school scores students on academic proficiency but also on their Habits of Work in that class. If there is a single area of the report that can hold the most value for guardians to support their student, this is it. Work in the area of drive, focus and engagement will have a significant impact on your student’s participation in their education and will lead to better academic achievement, and more success in life.

### **Habits of Citizenship?**

Scores on this standard are also found in the “Habits of Work, Citizenship, & Presence” section of the report. Does your student care about adults, students and property? Do they take responsibility for their actions and decisions? Do they advocate for themselves and others? The answers to these questions can be found here.