

November 2023

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We have had a productive start to the school year and a successful first few months of school! We are excited about our students effort and engagement with their learning. As a learning community, we are continually looking to improve student achievement in reading and math as well as consistent attendance at Julian Thomas. The school report card is one resource we use to reflect on our strengths and areas for improvement.

The Department of Public Instruction (DPI) is required by state statute ([Wis. Stat. 115.385](#)) to generate a school report card and district report card for every publicly funded school and district in the state. The report cards are intended to help schools and districts use performance data to celebrate successes and improve their efforts to prepare students for their futures. These public report cards can be found online at: <http://dpi.wi.gov/accountability/report-cards>.

The current **school report card is primarily based on last year's performance during the 2022-23 school year**. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, DPI encourages caution when interpreting scores and ratings on the 2022-23 report cards. DPI encourages caution when interpreting scores and ratings. Multiple years of data impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic are used throughout the report card.

At the foundation of the report cards are four priority areas. Schools and districts receive a score for each priority area:

- **Achievement** - proficiency in English language arts (ELA) and mathematics on the annual state assessments
- **Growth** - year-to-year progress in ELA and math achievement
- **Target Group Outcomes** - outcomes for students with the lowest test scores
- **On-Track to Graduation** - reliable predictors of how successfully students are progressing toward completing their K-12 education

The priority area scores are aggregated into an overall accountability score, from 0 to 100. This score is displayed on the front page of the school or district report cards. It is important to note that the 0 to 100 accountability score is not a "percent correct" measurement and is not aligned with traditional 0-100 grading scales. Based on its score, a school or district receives one of five rating categories, from *Fails to Meet Expectations* to *Significantly Exceeds Expectations*, as well as corresponding one to five stars.

School and district report cards can be accessed online at <http://dpi.wi.gov/accountability/report-cards> along with resources that explain the report cards. Our school report card is posted on our website: <https://rusd.org/schools/julian-thomas-elementary>.

Please let me know your thoughts and questions as they arise. I look forward to working with you to make 2023-24 a successful school year for your students!

Sincerely,

Danielle Dekker - Principal