Dear Parents,

We are off to a terrific start to the school year!  Your children continue to impress with their creative and critical thinking abilities, and they have already accomplished so much in our class :-)

With the first quarter of learning drawing to a close, it is time for us to focus on GT Progress Reports.  The EISD GT Specialists have made a few changes to the GT Progress Reports and I'd like to share them with you.

These changes stem from a desire to encourage your children to stretch beyond what is expected and reach for truly outstanding achievement.  The GT Specialists attended professional development about assessment this summer and then discussed how we could challenge the children to push themselves to reach truly exceptional levels of thinking and creating. To accomplish this goal we have changed the rating system that the children, and the GT Specialist, will use on the Progress Reports (see attached document).

The new Progress Reports present the same list of skills and behaviors as did the ones in the past.  However, the rating choices have changed.  Students may now select from the following three ratings:

**I = Need to Improve**

**E = Expected Level**

**O = Outstanding**

A rating of "I" indicates an area in which growth is needed.  This rating is given when a student demonstrates a need for practice in a certain area in order to build consistency and confidence.

"E" indicates the demonstration of an expected level of behavior or skill.  This rating is given when a student regularly performs at the typical level for GT students.  Students who participate and accomplish learning goals regularly would earn an "E."  Most students perform at this level most of the time.

A rating of "O" indicates an area of outstanding ability or effort.  This rating is reserved for the more rare occasions when a student goes well beyond what is expected and stretches their thinking and work to a new level.

It is our hope that these new ratings will encourage your children to take their learning to new levels.  We want you to be aware of these important changes before you receive your child's first Progress Report of the year.  We encourage you to discuss these changes with your child!  By delving further into the subject your child will have a firmer grasp of the new system, and they will appreciate your interest in their work and growth.

Sincerely,

Cara Beth McLeod