



Tips at Report Card Time

The purpose of report cards is to communicate to parents information about their child's progress and achievement. Here are a few tips on how to handle report cards when they come home:

1. Keep your child's report card in perspective. Avoid the extremes! Be cautious about rewarding good performance with food or money. Be cautious not to overreact to poor performance with anger or undue punishment. (Think about the message that this gives to our children about their worth – their dignity as human beings and children of God comes from who they are, not what they do).
2. Take time to sit down with your child and go over the report card. Ask your child to tell you about his/her report card.
3. Focus first on the positives on the report card – one or more grades, attendance, behavior/conduct, work habits, an improved grade (in subsequent quarters). Use specific praise: "You did a good job at..."
 - ❖ When a report card is outstanding, it is important to help children to learn to be humble and express gratitude to God for the gifts that He has given them.
4. Be calm and empathetic about poor grades or marks. Chances are that your child doesn't feel good about his/her performance. Ask how you can help your child do better, without taking over his or her responsibility.
 - ❖ When a report card is disappointing, it is important to help children 1) to recognize their gifts and build on strengths, and also 2) to plan for a more successful quarter the next time.
5. Make a plan. Choose one or two goals for the next quarter. The goals may involve raising a grade, improving behavior, improving work habits...