



# News from the Elementary Department

November 2014

## A welcome from the Elementary Education office

Highlights of this school year include our new English Language Arts and Math curriculum aligned to PA Core Standards, a change from four marking periods to three trimesters, and the use of Mastery Connect, our online software program which is our delivery system to communicate students' mastery of standards. Through Mastery Connect we will strengthen our dedication to our students by creating a complete partnership with our students, teachers, school administration, School Board Directors and family members. Our Mastery Connect parent portal will open on December 2, which will give families full access to their student's progress anytime from anywhere. We look forward to partnering with you to focus on learning and results!

Dramatic amounts of information are now available to you. Your child's report card in Mastery Connect will provide a summary of your child's achievement of standards taught and assessed by trimester. You will also have access to current, real-time progress for your child's growth in English Language Arts and Math. Your initial view may contain some red or yellow colors especially if a pre-assessment is entered. The opportunity is for everyone to notice where a student needs help and how we can all support the student. We will strive to give you precise feedback of what your child knows and still needs to learn. In addition, we are still developing this program for Science and Social Studies, and our Specials teachers will join us during the next trimester.

*The primary goal of mastery-based grading is to better communicate what each student knows and is able to do according to our standards.*

### *Benefits of a standards based system:*

- Helps teachers and students focus and adjust instruction and learning.
- Leads to higher learning through improved accountability and engagement as students have multiple opportunities to demonstrate mastery.
- Reports most recent evidence and trends of students learning.
- Gives students, parents and teachers a clear picture of learning and mastery.

### *Levels of Mastery:*

- M = Mastery of Standards (**GREEN**)
- NM = Near Mastery of Standards (**YELLOW**)
- R = Remedial Level of Understanding (**RED**)

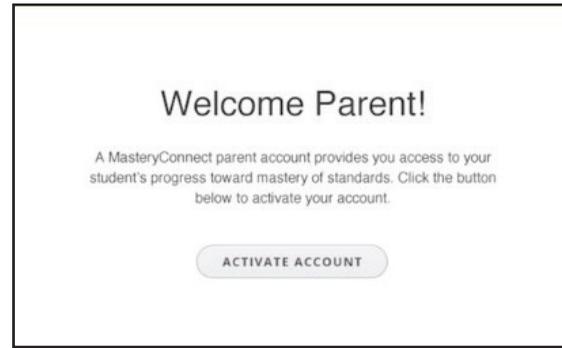
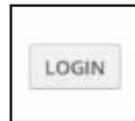
## How can I learn more?

- Follow updates on our Elementary Education webpage: [www.cvschools.org/elementary](http://www.cvschools.org/elementary)
  - Click on Curriculum & Instruction to view grade level standards, scope and sequence and curriculum maps.
  - Click on Report Card to view a sample report card, demonstration videos, and informational presentations from our PTO meetings.
- Informational Sessions in Computer Labs on conference evenings: December 4th & 9th from 4:00 PM – 8:00 PM every 15 minutes.
- Questions about your Mastery Connect Account: Call your school office.
- Attend your Parent-Teacher Conference

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**MasteryConnect:** How do I access my child's report card?

Parents will receive a "Report Card is Available" email, which will be sent to the address of the first contact in our student information system.

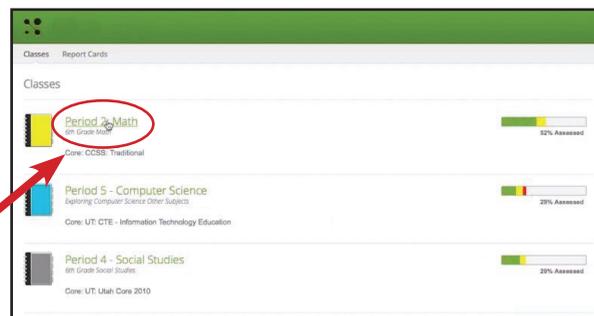


Sign in to MasteryConnect through the link provided in the email to activate account.  
[www.masteryconnect.com](http://www.masteryconnect.com)

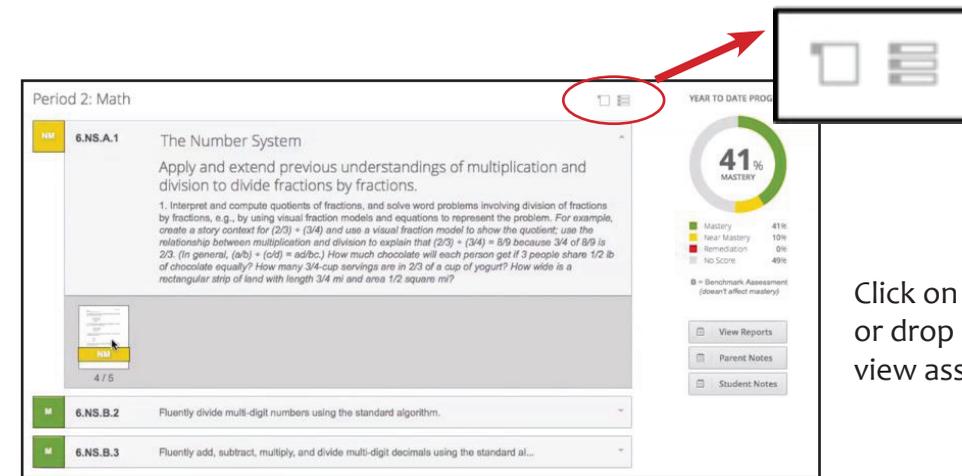
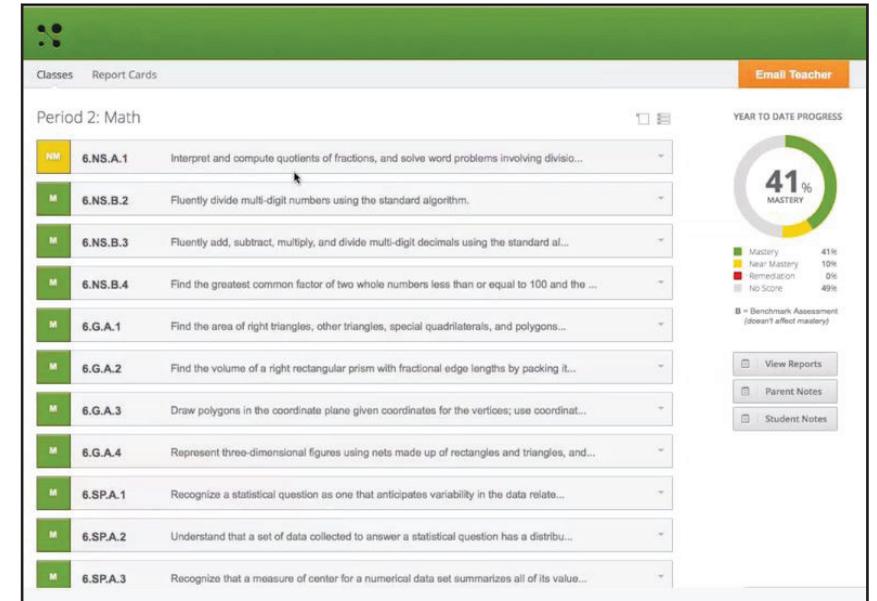


When parents sign in to their MasteryConnect account they will see a report card tab with the pdf of the Trimester 1 Report Card.

To see your child's current assessment data, levels of mastery and overall progress in real time, click on classes and select a class form your child's list of classes.



Click on class to see a full list of standards and your child's mastery of each standard that has been assessed.

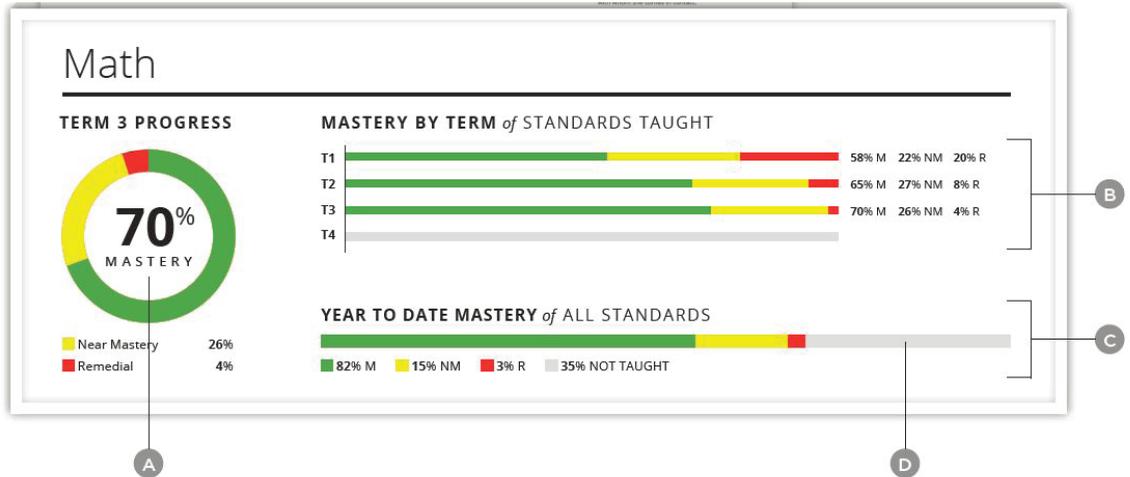


Click on open thumbnail or drop down arrow to view assessments.



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## Overview

- A** Mastery percentage of the standards that have been taught and assessed this term.
- B** Mastery percentage of standards that have been taught and assessed broken down by term.
- C** Mastery percentage of all standards that have been taught and assessed year to date.
- D** Represents the percentage of standards yet to be assessed.

## Informational sessions:

MasteryConnect Informational Sessions will be held in each elementary school's computer lab during Parent-Teacher Conferences. These 15-minute workshops - which begin on the quarter hour - are designed to give parents an overview of Mastery Connect's Parent Portal. Stop in during any session to ask questions and gain a better understanding of how this program will serve as a powerful educational tool.