

“Piece of Cake” Standards-Based Report Card Lesson Plan

- Audience** Parents of school aged children - approximately 20 (Can be adjusted to accommodate more if necessary)
- Goal** Parents will better understand how the Standards-Based Report Card is used to assess their children’s academic performance.
- Objective** To help parents understand the Standards-Based Report Card as an assessment tool. This is particularly useful before and during Parent Teacher Conference Week, or when explaining to parents about standards-based grading.
- Time Needed** 15 – 30 minutes (Can easily be extended or shortened)
- Materials**
- *1 baked and frosted cake*
 - *1 baked cake, unfrosted*
 - *1 bowl of mixed cake batter*
 - *1 bowl containing: box of cake mix (as is, still in box), 2 eggs, measuring cup*
 - *Cardstock/paper for labels (name tents for each cake)*
 - *Tape to tape labels to the table in front of each cake*
 - *Permanent Marker*
 - *Pencils (one for each parent)*
 - *Small plates and napkins to serve completed cake after workshop*
 - *Knife to cut completed cake*
 - *Copies of blank Standards-Based Report Card. For the activity, you will need to modify it slightly. Under “Fine Arts”, white out “performance,” and write in “Cake Making”*

Procedure

Set up

1. Arrange the frosted cake, baked cake, batter, and ingredients at the front of the room, where all parents can easily see them. They should be in random order.
2. Use the name tents provided to label each cake with a student's name (i.e. Betty Cakemaker, Frannie Frosting, Leilani Lovecake, etc.), or make your own.
3. Post the Cake-making standard in location easily visible to all participants.

Introduction/Explanation

1. Welcome parents and explain the purpose of the demonstration.
2. Distribute blank Standards-Based Report Cards. When doing the overview of the Standards-Based Report Card, you will need to walk parents through each section, and review the different vocabulary. It is particularly effective to have a teacher or administrator present to perform this part!

Demonstration

1. Explain that parents will now experience firsthand how the Standards-Based Report Card works.
2. Each parent will be filling out their own Quarter and Status Report for one of the cakes displayed at the front of the room. Start with the Quarterly Report. Assign different parents to different cakes, so that all of them are evaluated. **Remind parents to follow the Cake making Standard when doing their evaluations.** They will need to put a check mark in the appropriate box (More than adequate progress, Adequate progress, etc.)
3. Status Report. Now instruct parents to assume that another quarter has gone by, but the student has not made any progress. At this point, parents will need to write in a "grade," using the new Status Report Scale (ME, MP, N, etc.)
4. Allow time for discussion between parents and facilitator. Below are some questions/topics for this discussion.

Questions/ Topics of Discussion

- *What was difficult/easy about this report card?*
- *How is it different from the grades you are used to?*
- *Does it communicate more to you about your child's progress?*
- *How is this report card applicable to real life? (i.e. job evaluations, etc.)*

Closing

Eat the baked and decorated cake!! This will give the parents time to ask questions and absorb new report card information in a relaxed atmosphere.