

Fuller G/T Magnet Elementary School
Principal's Page
January 28, 2007



Dear Parents:

There are many ways that we measure school effectiveness and success. Once a year we conduct surveys of staff, students, and 4th grade parents (later this year). Last week, teachers had the opportunity to evaluate me as a second year principal and last semester, I conducted a survey of all teachers in their first four years of teaching. At of course, state tests in Reading and Math illuminate our *progress* in 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades. We use other forms of data as well—discipline data, teacher retention, and even student attendance records keep us abreast of our effectiveness as a school community.

Yet there is another measure of effectiveness that is more qualitative in nature—*engagement*. Your attendance at Friday night's Fuller Family Night is a powerful example of engagement. The collective efforts of the teachers and parents to provide dinner, initiate dialogue about balanced literacy, parent involvement, and the needs of academically gifted students modeled the partnership that sustains a positive school community.

Many of our teachers spent much of Friday in school improvement meetings discussing how they can more effectively use data to drive instruction, in addition to finishing the final touches on report cards and adjusting to the demand of new electives. And for many of our parents who balance the professional demands of the workweek, I cannot imagine how much you look forward to Friday night relaxation. The overwhelmingly large attendance at Fuller Family Night is a model of engagement and gives us a unique insight into our effectiveness that many other measurement tools (tests & surveys) fail to capture. Thanks for coming out and we look forward to our next Fuller Family Night in March.

Report Cards

You should receive your child's report card today. Please note that teachers put a large amount of time and effort into communicating your child's progress in meeting academic standards, work habits, and behavior. Please pay attention to any areas in which your students has earned a "2". This score means that he/she needs to improve. A student may receive a "2" for failing to meet academic goals *consistently* and *independently*. Also, please read the comments section of the report card, which should reflect where your child is doing well and where he/she needs to improve.

Wake County uses a template for reporting progress to parents. If you see a behavior or work habits standard and your child receives either a blank or a "NO" in this area, please look for comments to help you understand why there is not a check. I realize that this is confusing. But a "NO" is very absolute, when a student may simply "Need Improvement" in this area.

If you have questions, please contact your child's teacher or consult your Fuller Parent Handbook for information about Standards-Based Grading.

Dates to Remember

January 25th

January 28th

February 8th

Fuller Family Night

Report Cards

Early Release