

Easy-to-copy
Parent Reminder Form
on Back Cover!

What teachers and volunteers
need to know about...

Uncle Dan's Report CardSM



The new tool
for parents that helps
them teach their children
the behaviors that they
need to become
good students and
good citizens.

HELPS TEACHERS BY:

- Encouraging parents to become more involved at school.
- Preparing children to come to school ready to learn.
- Increasing communication with parents about students' behavior.
- Building positive relationships with students and parents.

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The Greater Kansas City Community
Foundation

For more information, visit UncleDansReportCard.org

LETTER FROM THE GOVERNOR

A message to parents and teachers from the Governor

Dear Friends:

You see it at home and in the classroom: More and more students are beginning school without the basic habits of good behavior essential for academic success. According to the May 2004-released survey from Public Agenda, a non-partisan opinion research organization, virtually all teachers (97%) said good discipline and behavior are prerequisites for a successful school; 78% of parents agreed that schools need good discipline and behavior; 74% of the parents surveyed, and 82% of teachers, felt that parents' failure to teach their children discipline ranked as one of the biggest causes of school behavior problems.

I am honored to introduce you to a new solution that connects the past with the present – *Uncle Dan's Report Card* – which parents will use to teach their children the discipline they need. It's based on an updated and expanded 90-year-old report card from the Kansas City, Kansas School District that we're bringing back to schools across the state.

The goals of *Uncle Dan's Report Card* are to:

- Increase parent involvement with their children in practicing the habits that help them be more successful in the classroom and in life;
- Increase positive participation by parents in their children's school;
- Increase the dialogue between parents and teachers about the non-academic habits their children are developing at school and at home in personal responsibility, positive relationships, and learning readiness;
- Increase the value of parent involvement in a child's life by rewarding parents for their valuable contributions to their children's education; and
- Help your school district comply with the Parent Involvement provision of No Child Left Behind.

Uncle Dan's Report Card has received the endorsement of the Kansas PTA, Kansas Parents As Teachers Association, Kansas Action for Children, and Kansas Parent Information Resource Center.

I invite you to share your observations on how *Uncle Dan's Report Card* has helped your students and how it can be improved. Please send an e-mail to info@UncleDansReportCard.org to share your stories and suggestions.

Sincerely,



Kathleen Sebelius,
Governor



The Story of Uncle Dan's Report Card

In 2002, local parent educator and author, Barbara Unell, discovered a 1914 "Home and School Report Card," from Lois Huggin's 5th Grade class in John J. Ingall's Elementary School in Kansas City, Kansas.

This Report Card belonged to her most adored uncle, Daniel L. Brenner. Nearly 90 years old, it was still on his desk when he passed away in 2002, at the age of 98.

Why was this Report Card so precious to "Uncle Dan", as Barbara referred to him? Why did he keep it available to him all his life?

Barbara knew the answers to these questions. His Report Card of 1914 included learning readiness activities and habits of responsibility and respect. These were the very lessons Barbara had learned as a child, and her own children had learned when they were young, from the example and the encouragement of Uncle Dan on a daily basis.

Uncle Dan was a man of great integrity who devoted his life to issues of social justice, education, family, and service to community. A bachelor all his life, he passed those lessons on to his nieces and nephews, and great-nieces and nephews, by personally practicing the habits on his Report Card and encouraging his family to do the same.

Could this Report Card serve as an inspiration and guide for children today to conduct themselves as responsible workers and respectful human beings, as it guided Uncle Dan's life and those he taught? Barbara set about the task of finding out if others were as moved by the power of this simple idea as she was.

After consultation with educators, parents, children, state and national leaders, and experts in the field of school-parent involvement, Barbara, United States Congressman Dennis Moore, and the Governor of Kansas, Kathleen Sebelius, joined with Barbara's staff of The Brenner Family Education Center, to launch the project, *Uncle Dan's Report Card*, in 2005.

This project is the new version of the simple, common sense approach to parent involvement and parent-teacher partnerships that characterized *Uncle Dan's Report Card* in 1914. The principles and importance of this project 90 years ago are still relevant today.

Though some of the specific habits and the culture in which they are practiced have changed in 90 years, the need for human beings to learn how to work and play well with others and take responsibility for their actions will never go out of style, be a trend, or a fad.

Kansas City, Kansas, Public Schools.

SCHOOL AND HOME REPORT CARD.

Enrolled 7-14 1914 in 5th
Promoted 5-21 1915 to 6th

Mark the first seven with the number of days completed, "G" for Good, "S" for Satisfactory, "P" for Poor. Parent's signature below.

HOME ACTIVITIES	HOME REPORT.					
	SIX WEEKS PERIOD					
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Books Read						
Letters Written	15	12	13	10	15	
Hours Worked	0	0	0	0	0	
Money Earned	0	0	0	0	0	
Money Saved	1.00	2.00	3.00	0	1.50	
Things Made	1.00	2.00	3.00	0	1.00	
Evenings at Home	0	1.75	2.50	0	0	
Care of Teeth	42	0	0	75	25	
Regular Bathing	42	42	42	0	25	
Care of Clothing	42	42	42	42	42	
Sleeping, Windows Open	42	42	42	42	42	
Manners	42	42	42	42	42	
Helping Father	42	42	42	42	42	
Helping Mother	42	42	42	42	42	
Morning Duties	42	42	42	42	42	
Evening Duties	42	42	42	42	42	
Obedience & Promptness	42	42	42	42	42	
Habits of Kindness	42	42	42	42	42	
Truthfulness and Honesty	42	42	42	42	42	

1. A. Brenner
2. A. Brenner
3. A. Brenner
4. A. Brenner
5. A. Brenner

Five Easy Steps To Building Learning-Ready Behavior

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER

1.

Back-to-school night introduction

Set aside a few minutes on this night to announce that parents will be receiving their Uncle Dan's Report Cards. Display a report card in your classroom!

Teachers and volunteers can help by...

Recommend that parents get involved in the program! Let them know about two upcoming events...

- Attending an Uncle Dan's Report Card Party for children and parents during a school day in October.
- Sharing their child's copy of the Uncle Dan's Report Card at parent-teacher conference.

2.

Uncle Dan's Report Card Distribution

After Labor Day, distribute Uncle Dan's Report Card to the homes of your students and their parents. This fun, colorful poster discusses 14 basic behaviors and how to practice them together over a nine-week period.

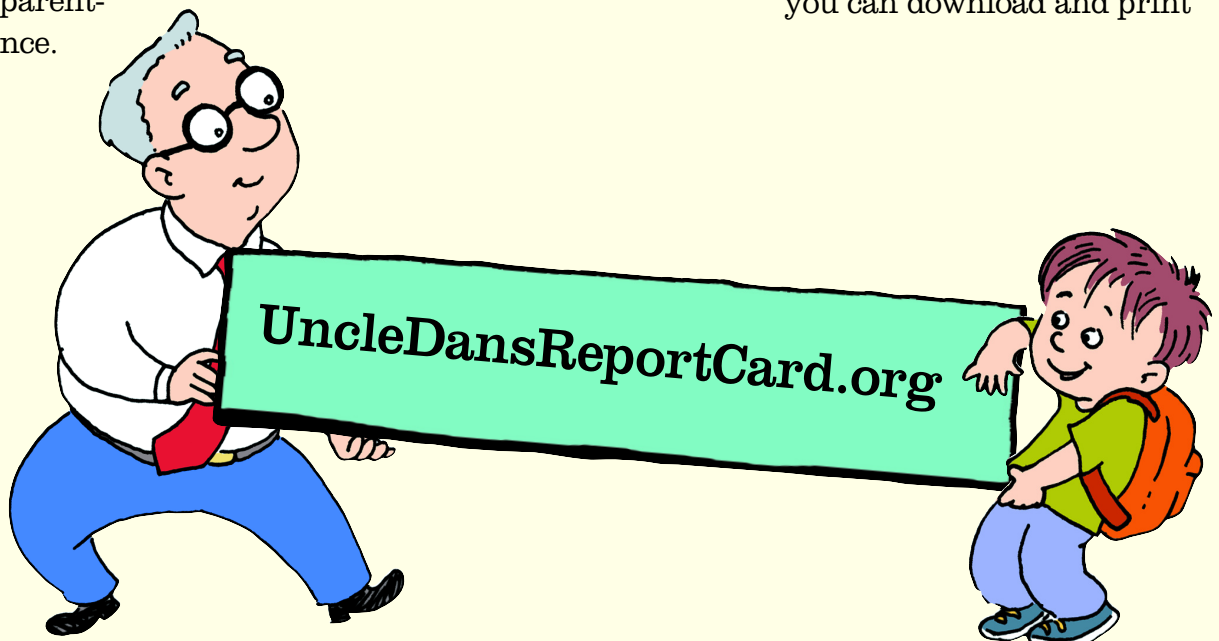
Please fill in, copy, and distribute the helpful Parent Reminder Form on the back of this guide along with copies of Uncle Dan's Report Card. Also let parents know that the "Tip Sheets" are available on UncleDansReportCard.org to help their children learn the subjects on Uncle Dan's Report Card at home.

OCTOBER

3.

Uncle Dan's Report Card Party

After Uncle Dan's Report Cards are received by parents and before parent-teacher conferences, we encourage you to have an Uncle Dan's Report Card Party during the classroom day for all students (invite the families to attend!) to celebrate the learning they've been doing at home using Uncle Dan's Report Card. Read the illustrated Uncle Dan's Report Card Storybook, "Dinner With Uncle Dan," telling the endearing story of Uncle Dan and his original report card from 1914! The book is on the website where you can download and print



your very own copy. PTA volunteers and other parents may want to bring cookies or other refreshments.

Teachers and volunteers can help by...

Your hosting the Uncle Dan's Report Card Party tells parents and students that you support their using Uncle Dan's Report Card at home to practice habits of good behavior. You can share the Uncle Dan's Report Card Storybook with the children while parent volunteers or the school counselor can lead a discussion with parents about the subjects on Uncle Dan's Report Card. Both you and the volunteers/counselor can encourage parents to visit UncleDansReportCard.org for more tips and resources. Remind parents to bring their child's Uncle Dan's Report Card to parent-teacher conferences later in the month.

4. **Parent-Teacher Conferences**

Ask parents to show you their child's Uncle Dan's Report Card as a way to get to know their child better. It gives you a comfortable and positive way to talk to parents about their child's behavior and is an easy way for parents to ask you for help in encouraging their child to practice these habits. Everyone wins with Uncle Dan's Report Card!

Teachers and volunteers can help by...

Use the copy of Uncle Dan's Report Card posted in your classroom as a positive discussion starter about these 14 behaviors that affect each student's success in school. You can conclude the conference with a clear understanding of what the parent can do at home and what you can do in class to help the child improve on an area of Uncle Dan's Report Card, which will increase his potential learning at home and at school. Finally, give parents a new Uncle Dan's Report Card for the next nine-week

period. Remind them that the Report Card and other resources can be found and downloaded on the website, UncleDansReportCard.org.

**NOVEMBER
THROUGH MAY**

5. **Continue Communicating**

Encourage parents to bring their Uncle Dan's Report Cards to the second semester parent-teacher conferences and continue communicating with them about practicing these habits.

Teachers and volunteers can help by...

Contact us on the website whenever you need more copies of Uncle Dan's Report Card or for any other questions, comments, or suggestions. We want to hear from you! Remember, you can also download and print the Report Card, Tip Sheets, the "Dinner With Uncle Dan" Storybook, the Teacher's and Volunteer's Guide and more at UncleDansReportCard.org.

Frequently Asked Questions

How is a child's teacher involved with *Uncle Dan's Report Card*?

The teacher will invite the parents and students to an *Uncle Dan's Report Card* Party in October to celebrate families who are helping children learn these important lessons. Teachers also have copies of 14 "Tip Sheets", one per subject on the Report Card, for parents to help their children learn the subjects at home.

Whom can parents talk to if they have questions about *Uncle Dan's Report Card* or need more copies after their first one is completed?

They may ask their child's teacher for more copies or for answers to any questions they may have about the Report Card. Copies are available to download at UncleDansReportCard.org.

How can this Report Card help a child in school?

Researcher Anne Henderson has compiled data that shows that when parents are involved, children do better in school. Students with involved parents are more likely to earn higher grades and test scores; enroll in higher level programs; be promoted; attend school regularly; have better social skills and adapt well to school; and graduate and go on to post-secondary education. *Uncle Dan's Report Card* is a tool for parent involvement in building habits of good behavior that will serve their child well at school, at home and in the community. More proof that parent involvement is so critical to school success comes from the National Parent Teacher Association

statement noting that "parent involvement transcends many of the barriers that contribute to the achievement gap, such as socio-economic status, ethnic/racial background, and the parents' level of education."

Can the family use the Report Card for their other children?

Yes! All children in a family can participate in using *Uncle Dan's Report Card*,

Will the child's marks on the *Uncle Dan's Report Card* become part of his permanent record?

Uncle Dan's Report Card will not be kept at school or become part of a child's permanent record.



What if a parent feels that she can't "add one more thing to her plate"?

The subjects on *Uncle Dan's Report Card* are healthy and important for every child to learn and every caregiver of the child to practice with him. Using *Uncle Dan's Report Card*, these caregivers will all have the same checklist to guide the child in learning personal responsibility, positive relationships with others and primary-school readiness. When a child is not in school, a caring adult needs to be encouraging each habit as the day goes along – brushing teeth when he gets up, using good manners when he eats his breakfast, and reading at home before bed, for example. These become normal routine when they are part of a child's daily habits, encouraged by everyone who cares for the child – parent, other family member, daycare provider, or babysitter.

What if a child doesn't want to do the items on *Uncle Dan's Report Card*?

If a child doesn't want to practice some of the Report Card habits:

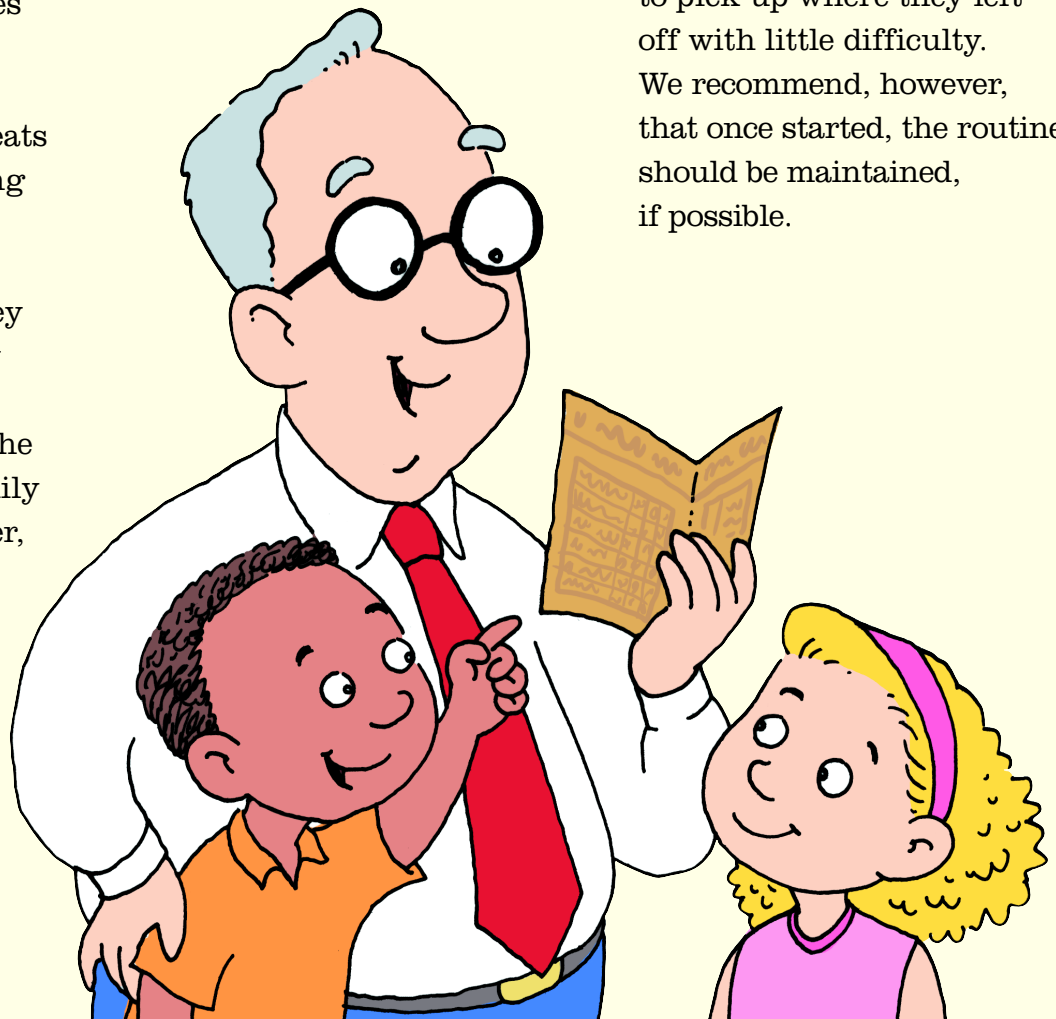
- Share the reasons for practicing the habits with the child;
- Ask the child for ways to make it fun to practice the habits; and
- Follow the "Do's" and "Don'ts" to encourage each behavior.

This conversation alone is a learning tool to help parents and their children

understand each other better and learn how to problem-solve when they have different agendas. Parents are encouraged to talk to their children's teacher, school counselor or call us for more information. Fourteen "Tip Sheets" are also available from our website to help children learn.

If parents don't do the Report Card tasks for a week, will it affect the outcome?

If they take a week off for some reason, such as illness, they should be able to pick up where they left off with little difficulty. We recommend, however, that once started, the routine should be maintained, if possible.



Dear Parents,

Date: _____

Please note the following schedule for using *Uncle Dan's Report Card* during your child's school year.

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER

- Learn about *Uncle Dan's Report Card* from me at our **Back to School Night** or **Open House**, or ask me about the program.

SEPTEMBER

- If you do not receive your child's Uncle Dan's Report Card by September 15, please ask me for your copy.
- Please follow the section on *Uncle Dan's Report Card* titled "The ABCs of Sharing *Uncle Dan's Report Card* With Your Child." Encourage your child to practice each behavior at home every day for the next nine weeks!
- Please go to the Web site for Tip Sheets on any of the 14 behaviors on *Uncle Dan's Report Card* to help your child practice each behavior. These and other information are available on www.UncleDansReportCard.org.

OCTOBER

- Attend our classroom's ***Uncle Dan's Report Card Party***:

Date: _____ Time: _____ Place: _____

- Bring your filled out Uncle Dan's Report Card to discuss at our **parent-teacher conference**:

Date: _____ Time: _____ Place: _____

- At our parent-teacher conference, I will give you a new copy of *Uncle Dan's Report Card* to use with your child for the next 9 weeks.
- Let's download copies of Tip Sheets on any of the 14 behaviors on *Uncle Dan's Report Card* to help your child practice each behavior. These and other information are available on www.UncleDansReportCard.org.

NOVEMBER THROUGH MAY

- Let's continue to visit about *Uncle Dan's Report Card*. I am here to support your efforts to teach these behaviors at home, by reinforcing them in the classroom.
- Please see me if you need more copies of *Uncle Dan's Report Card*. I look forward to sharing your child's *Uncle Dan's Report Card* at the Spring parent-teacher conference.

Thank you for being involved in your child's education!

Sincerely,