

September 18, 2011

Re: Changes in grading for grades one and two

Dear Parents and Legal Guardians,

As we are about to send the Powerschool log-ins out to parents, I wanted to let everyone know about some changes in grading for students in first and second grades.

Last year in Kindergarten, we started using standards-based reporting. This is a more comprehensive system and gives parents much more information about the level of their child across the academic areas. We will no longer be using the system of E, S+, S or U for students in grades one and two. The students will continue to be listed in the Powerschool gradebook and teachers will record the work being done in the class so that you are aware of what is being covered. The work students do in class will either be sent home or will be kept as part of a portfolio. Every student in grades one and two has a portfolio. Work that the students complete toward mastery of a concept is kept in that portfolio. This allows parents and teachers to see where students are struggling and where they need some extra practice. This system also helps to ensure that every student has met all of the standards required for that grade level, which is essential when building a strong academic foundation. The portfolios will be shared with parents during conferences as a concrete example of exactly where your child is performing in all areas. Portfolios will not be sent home during the year but parents can schedule meetings with teachers at any time during the year to view a child's portfolio. If you have any questions or concerns about this system, please feel free to contact me. Thank you for your ongoing support!

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