

## SBG Parent Communication - Deerfield Public Schools District 109

Greetings Caruso Families,

As we have previously communicated, both middle schools are in the process of transitioning to a standards based grading and reporting system which will align us with our elementary counterparts that adopted the practice last year. This year our district teaching and learning department will be sending out quarterly communications to help families better understand this transition, with the first one coming towards the end of the month.

We are excited about the impact this system will have on further promoting student learning and growth. This academic year is considered a pilot year for the middle schools with the 2016-17 academic year being the time we will be fully implementing the approach. Much of the work is being done behind the scenes as we prepare for next year, but our new practices are certainly starting to surface in our daily practice as teachers begin to pilot.

There is a plethora of literature available to explain this learning and grading philosophy. One of my personal favorites is [this article](#) from world-renowned standards based grading expert, Dr. Thomas Guskey, who spoke to our district staff last year. If you would rather watch instead of read there is a great [video series](#) from Rick Wormeli, who many educators in the district also had the privilege to listen and learn from in person last year, which is worth your time to check out.