

## SBGR Parent Communication - Deerfield Public Schools District 109

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I am writing to update you on our transition to standards-based grading and reporting (SBGR) in Deerfield Public Schools District 109. [I encourage you to read the comprehensive information about SBGR at this link on our District website.](#) The website includes information about the purpose of our 6-8 report cards, overall principles of SBGR, and specifics on how we will be recording and communicating student progress both academically and in terms of what we call “Habits of Success.”

As you probably know by now, this is the first year (for grades 6-8) that we will be officially reporting student progress not only with an overall letter grade, but also with several strands for each subject, showing how students are doing in specific areas within each subject. As but one example, instead of merely receiving a grade in Language Arts, students will receive marks in the specific areas of Reading, Writing, Speaking/Listening, and Language. We wanted to share a few reminders and updates about the new reporting system with parents and students:

- First, although students will continue receiving quarterly reports, the reports they receive for Quarters 1 and 3 are considered “progress reports,” rather than final “report cards.” Students will receive report cards twice this year, at the end of Quarters 2 and 4. On Quarter 1 and 3 reports, students and parents will see standard comments from teachers simply describing the overall concepts taught and learned during the quarter. On the 2nd and 4th quarter Report Cards, parents and students will see individualized comments from teachers, sharing how the student is doing in each class.
- Honor Roll will be determined twice this year, coinciding with the issuing of Report Cards after quarters 2 and 4. Eligibility for Honor Roll is as follows:
  1. “Distinguished Model Scholars” are students who receive all 3s and 4s academically and all 3s on Habits of Success.
  2. “Model Scholars” are students who receive all 3s on Habits of Success.
- You may have already noticed that during the grading period, you will see all standards present in Skyward. For each subject, these are the entire list of standards taught during the course of an entire school year in each subject. However, not all standards are necessarily taught in each quarter, so you may well be noticing several standards with no scores attached to them. That is completely normal, but please know that teachers will be populating these throughout the year.
- We continue to learn how Skyward supports SBGR and in some ways the platform is not working as we would like it to ideally. Currently, some letter grades are being shown, but our intent is to only display feedback in number form until the end of each semester, at which time students and parents would see both their 4-3-2-1 grades within the strands for each subject along with an overall academic letter grade.
- You may [click here](#) for our extra-curricular code of conduct. which has been updated to reflect SBGR practices. Specifically, please note the following paragraph which is a shift from our previous practice with traditional grades:

*I will work toward standards and demonstrate habits of success. The coach, sponsor, or supervisor will monitor my academic progress and if they observe that I am not working towards meeting standards and/or habits of success I will develop an improvement plan with the appropriate teacher(s). I will have the plan signed by my parent(s)/guardian, teacher, and coach. The plan will be monitored by the coach, sponsor, or supervisor and*

*if at any time I do not perform satisfactorily regarding my part of the plan, I will be subject to the agreed upon consequences in the contract until I do meet the expectations in the improvement plan and/or my grade(s) demonstrate working towards standards and/or habits of success.*

Our first quarter progress reports will be posted on Friday, November 4, 2016. In the meantime, please contact me with any questions we can answer about this topic. In addition, please feel free to contact our building administrators, our instructional coaches, or our teachers for additional information. Thank you, as always, for your support of teaching and learning in Deerfield Public Schools District 109!