

Dear Parent/Guardian:

District 41 uses Skyward Family Access as the gradebook/report card portal. This means you can use your Skyward username and password to check your child’s assignments, grades and report cards. Please use the button - *Skyward Family Access* on the district and school websites to access your child’s records.

We continue to use standards-based grading, reflecting the common core standards. The purpose of the report card is to communicate with parents and students about the achievement of specific learning goals (standards). It identifies students’ levels of progress with regards to those goals, areas of strength, and areas where additional time and effort are needed. We continue to separate effort from achievement. Effort is reflected in work habits which embed the D41 Learner Characteristics.

This year we will transition to a five point grading scale. The performance descriptors read as follows:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 5 | Exceptional: Demonstrates an exceptional understanding of the concepts and performance of the skills included in the standard. |
| 4 | Proficient: Demonstrates a secure understanding of the concepts and performance of the skills included in the standard. |
| 3 | Satisfactory: Demonstrates a competent understanding of the concepts and performance of the skills included in the standard. |
| 2 | Beginning: Demonstrates a beginning understanding of the concepts and skills included in the standard. |
| 1 | Unsatisfactory: Does not yet demonstrate an understanding of the concepts and cannot perform skills included in the standard. |

We use a combination of rubric grading and percentage grading. Listed below is the grading scale:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Grade Mark** | **Rubric Grading** | **Percentage Grading** |
| 5 | 4.6 - 5.00 | 95-100 |
| 4 | 3.6 - 4.5 | 85-94 |
| 3 | 2.6 - 3.5 | 75-84 |
| 2 | 1.6 - 2.5 | 67-74 |
| 1 | 1.5 and below | 66 and below |

\*Your child’s teacher will tell you whether their subject utilizes rubric or percentage grading.

We are hopeful the five point scale provides increased opportunities for children to demonstrate their growth in learning over time.

Last year the majority of teachers used Skyward; however we will be offering additional training to teachers throughout September. **Hadley** grades on the quarter/semester and their gradebooks will be accessible to parents on *September 15*. **Elementary schools** grade on the trimester and their gradebooks will be accessible to parents on *September 25*. Directions for accessing the gradebook will be viewable in Skyward. In the meantime, if you have questions about an assignment, test, etc. please contact your child’s teacher.

Sincerely,

Karen Carlson

Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning