

December 2021

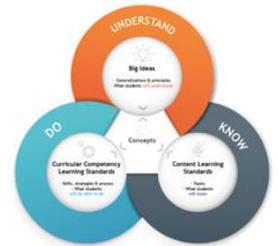
Dear Parents/Guardians:

At New West Schools, we have been working hard to provide families with regular updates on student progress. We do this in many ways; meetings, phone calls, emails, assessed work sent home for your review, and parent/teacher/student conferences. We also provide three written formal report cards in December, March, and June. The Ministry of Education has been working on aligning the way we report to families to support our redesigned curriculum. For more information, please see the Ministry of Education's Draft Reporting Order: <https://engage.gov.bc.ca/app/uploads/sites/121/2021/09/Draft-K-12-Student-Reporting-Policy.pdf>

For the last several years we have been focusing on writing report card comments that provide clear information on what your child **knows**, **understands**, and can **do** in each curriculum area.

This year we are making a few more changes to support our redesigned curriculum and the Draft Reporting Policy from the Ministry of Education:

1. We are shifting the way we grade our students to align with a new “proficiency scale” created by the Ministry of Education. This scale uses growth mindset language and supports a continuum of learning. All students in Grades K–8 will see this scale on their report card to indicate their progress. This is the first year that our Middle School students will be using the proficiency scale instead of letter grades.



Proficiency Scale	→			
	Emerging	Developing	Proficient	Extending
	The student demonstrates an initial understanding of the concepts and competencies relevant to the expected learning.	The student demonstrates a partial understanding of the concepts and competencies relevant to the expected learning.	The student demonstrates a complete understanding of the concepts and competencies relevant to the expected learning.	The student demonstrates a sophisticated understanding of the concepts and competencies relevant to the expected learning.

2. Students will be focusing more on the essential skills of learning--the Core Competencies: Communication, Thinking, and Personal and Social interaction. They will reflect on these skills during two reporting periods this year.
3. We will also be working toward “Three-Way Conferences” at least once per year. At this conference, parents/guardians, the teacher, and the student will meet to discuss progress and set goals for further learning. Many of our schools have already been working on this method of conferencing for the last few years. This approach puts students at the centre of their learning.

For more information, please view a short presentation that highlights the key elements of the draft reporting order: [link here](#). If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to your classroom teacher, Vice-Principal, or Principal.

Sincerely,

Maureen McRae-Stanger
Director of Instruction, Learning and Innovation