



Appleton Area *School District*

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Dear Parent/Guardian:

As the Appleton Area School District (AASD) continues to improve teaching and learning for all students, we know that parents, guardians, and families are our most valuable partners. Communicating student progress with families is critical to these partnerships. The progress report reflects the Appleton Area School District's standards/expectations for academics and behavior. These standards set high expectations for students, staff, and schools.

For the past several years, AASD has studied methods of grading that accurately reflect and report student learning. This work has resulted in a standards-based approach that we call Grading for Learning. Ultimately, we believe this will assist our teachers to authentically and accurately communicate student achievement on the identified course standards.

Standards-based instruction and grading expands the instructional purposes of grading. Standards-based grading clearly identifies success criteria for learning goals/targets, states clear indications of student strength/weaknesses, provides information on career and life skills, and supports instructional practices that maximize student motivation.

This is AASD's sixth year of standards-based reporting to measure student progress at the elementary level. Through the work at the secondary level (Grade 7-12) in Grading for Learning, we have made some changes to the elementary level Characteristics of Lifelong Learner standards in order to better align with the middle and high school.

- The first change you will see is we are now calling the standards **Career and Life Skills-Learning How to Learn**. This change aligns with the middle and high school rubric.
- The second change you will see is a change in the standard descriptors to align the expected behavior with a career and life skill. For example, **Be Respectful is aligned with Social and Cross-Cultural Skills**.
- The third change you will see is that we are now using a frequency scale (**4-Consistently, 3-Usually, 2-Occasionally and 1- Rarely**) to indicate the student's skills in this area.

The rubric for the revised AASD Elementary Career and Life Skills-Learning How to Learn is attached to this letter.

More information on Grading for Learning can be found on our district website [AASD Grading for Learning](#). If you have any questions, please feel free to contact your student's teacher or principal.

Sincerely,

AASD Elementary Progress Report Leadership Team