

**Colquitz Middle School**

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**Understanding the Term One Report Card**

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Dear Families,

What is the report card at Middle School? The report card is a formal document that provides a synthesis of everything that has occurred over the term; it is a summary of all the day-to-day class work and informal and formal assessments in each of the subject areas. Comments in the subject areas speak to what students know, can do and understand. When reading the report card, please refer to the descriptors on the report card cover sheet.

Students’ progress at differing rates; at times progress is rapid; at other times, it seems to plateau. Each student has his/her/their own unique interests and areas of competence. Progress may vary from one subject to another and students may be more successful in one area than another area. Progress is often based on three key factors: work and learning habits, attitude and effort. These factors are identified in the Advisory Teacher Comments section of the report. This section on the report card provides essential information about your youth’s performance at school.

***What is Proficiency Scale Reporting?***

Colquitz Middle School is involved in piloting a provincial initiative for the 2022-2023 school year where all classroom teachers have begun to use ***Proficiency Scales***, instead of letter grades to communicate student learning.  A change in this reporting practice can be seen across the province, as school districts work to align themselves with the Ministry of Education’s reporting policy and with BC’s curriculum. We anticipate that by the 2023-2024 school year, all schools across the province will be using the ***Proficiency Scales***.

***Why the Shift?***

***Proficiency Scales*** are based on communicating and describing each student’s growth and progression along a continuum of learning. All reports will continue to reflect strengths, areas for improvement and ways to deepen learning. Research is clear that traditional letter grades signal the *end of learning* by suggesting that a particular subject is mastered or completed. However, learning is a continuous process. This proficiency model fosters a growth mindset for students, empowering confidence that our abilities will continue to develop with hard work, effort and determination.

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| **Proficiency Scale** |  | | | |
| **Emerging** | | **Developing** | **Proficient** |
| The student demonstrates an initial understanding of the concepts and competencies relevant to the expected learning.  *“I’m just getting started.”*  *“I learn best with guidance”* | | The student demonstrates a partial understanding of the concepts and competencies relevant to the expected learning.  *“I get some of it.”*  *“I have a basic understanding of the main concepts.”* | The student demonstrates a solid understanding of the concepts and competencies relevant to the expected learning.  *“I have a solid understanding.”*  *“I have a good grasp of the concepts and main ideas.”* |
| **Extending** | The student demonstrates a sophisticated understanding of the concepts and competencies relevant to the expected learning.  *“I get it and go beyond what it expected of me.”*  *“I can show insight.”* | | |

***Proficiency Scale*** will:

* Focus on learning as a continuous process
* Support a better understanding of learning; focus on next steps
* Promote a growth-mindset or a belief that we can all get better
* Foster hope and a culture of learning

***Interested in Learning More?***

Please feel free to contact the school if you have any questions or click [HERE](https://learn.sd61.bc.ca/proficiency-scale-pilot/) for more information from SD61 or [HERE](https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/classroom-assessment/student-reporting-policy-pilot) for more information from the BC Ministry of Education.

Please take time connecting with your youth, to read their report card with them and reflect on its contents. Talk about the report card together; ask your youth how they feel about it, what areas they are especially proud of, as well as what areas you both feel can be a focus for next term. Help your youth take pride in their accomplishments and take responsibility for areas in which improvement is needed. Enjoy the report card process!

Sincerely,

Topher Macintosh Sarah Elford

Principal Vice Principal