



Appleton North High School

"The Lightning"

5000 North Ballard Road, Appleton, WI 54913 • (920) 832-4300 • Fax (920) 832-4301

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.

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*" (GFL). Ultimately, we believe this will assist our teachers to authentically and accurately communicate student achievement on the identified course standards.

During the 2017-2018 school year, select initial implementation teachers of English Language Arts and World Language courses in grades 7-9 utilized a standards-based instruction and assessment model. This year we will fully implement the work that was initiated last year and will continue to develop additional courses under an "initial implementation model" where select teachers from each of our schools come together to create a common course. You are receiving this letter because your child is enrolled in a **initial implementation standards-based course**.

Standards-based course instruction and grading expands the instructional purposes of grading and

- ❖ clarifies learning goals/targets,
- ❖ clearly identifies success criteria for learning goals/targets
- ❖ states clear indications of student strengths/weaknesses,
- ❖ provides information on career and life skills, and
- ❖ supports instructional practices that maximize student motivation.

In these courses, rubrics will be utilized to measure student proficiency on well-defined course standards. Standards will then be grouped together and these clusters will be analyzed and **continue to be converted to traditional letter grades**. This grade will appear in Infinite Campus at the end of each reporting period and will be reflected on student's transcripts. The GFL link mentioned below will provide more information on the grading scale and assessment rubrics for these courses.

Learning/work habits play an important role in a student's success and are also an important factor in your student's preparation for college and careers. Our students will require many skills to be college and career ready, including academic knowledge, technical expertise, and a set of general, cross-cutting abilities called employability skills, which will be referred to as **Career and Life Skills** in the AASD Grading for Learning framework. The development of Career and Life Skills does not occur in one or two classes, but grows over the course of a student's educational career.

In the 2018-19 school year, all students in all courses grades 7-12 will be assessed not only on their academic progress this year, but also on their Career and Life Skills. Teachers will be communicated with you using a separate mark indicating your student's Career and Life Skills in each course. This feedback,

while not factored into the student's grade point average, will indicate areas of strength and opportunities for growth and provide parents with additional information on the student.

In grades 9-12, you will see a mark for each course at the mid-quarter progress reporting periods and at the end of each semester in the following three categories: **Acts Responsibly and Respectfully; Communicates Effectively and Works Collaboratively; Thinks Critically and Creatively**. A link to the complete rubric is provided here: [High School Career and Life Skills rubric](#)

We believe this additional information will be one more tool for us to help every child achieve optimal success as we partner with you in your student's education.

More information about our district Grading for Learning and/or Classroom to Career can be found on our district website: [AASD Classroom to Career](#) and [AASD Grading for Learning](#). Additionally we would encourage you to come to our first Parent Organizational meeting on Monday, September 24th at 6:30 pm where we will have a specific GFL focus. If you have other questions regarding your child's grade or the use of our Career and Life Skills rubric, please contact Mr. Paul Hermes, Associate Principal of Curriculum and Instruction at hermespaul@asds.k12.wi.us or (920) 997-1399 ext. 6522.

We look forward to our continued collaboration in the success of your child.

North Administration Team

