

## CHEATING

- Scores in PowerSchool are not affected because of cheating, however, a discipline referral is submitted to the principal in cases of cheating and the work must be redone by the student.

## TIPS FOR HOME

Parents often ask what they can do to help their students at home. We have found that a focus on **accountability, reading, math facts and typing** can help prepare students for success in school. Below are some ideas of how you can incorporate this at home.

### Accountability

- Check PowerSchool and talk with your child about their scores.
- Encourage your child to aim for proficiency on all learning targets and retake when necessary.
- Look through your child's Friday folder and talk about their work they brought home that week.

### Reading

- Every elementary student has library time. Encourage them to bring their library books home and read 15 minutes every night. This can help them to develop important vocabulary and spelling skills.
- Read with your child. It's not only helpful for their academics, but also creates bonds that will a lifetime.

### Typing

- There are many fun typing games that can be found on the Internet. Websites like [typetastic.com](http://typetastic.com), [www.nitrotype.com](http://www.nitrotype.com) and [typing.com](http://typing.com) are helpful for learning how to be fast and accurate typers.
- Being able to type without looking at the keyboard means kids can focus on the task in front of them instead of getting distracted hunting for letters.

### Math

- Kindergarten - practice counting and adding/subtracting to five.
- First and Second - practice addition and subtraction facts to 20.
- Third through Fifth - practice skip counting and multiplication and division facts.



# A Parent's Guide to **ELEMENTARY SCHOOL** **Standards-Based Grading**

## WHY?

More than a decade ago Dansville Schools began our assessment and grading journey because our experiences and research showed that traditional grading actually hurts student motivation. We then dug more deeply into the assessment research to learn what kind of assessment and grading motivates students. Based on our findings, we began our move to standards-based grading and assessment.

### What are the benefits of standards-based grading?

- Research shows that standards-based grading motivates students more than traditional grading practices.
- Students take responsibility for their own learning.
- Students have a clear understanding about what needs to be learned.
- A student's grades communicate only his or her knowledge and skill in each content area.
- Students are taught that work habits are also important life skills and they are intentionally communicated separately to provide clear feedback for students and parents.



## UNDERSTANDING THE REPORT CARD

### Clear learning targets have been developed based on the state and/or national standards in all subjects.

- Learning targets are written in student-friendly language.
- Students receive learning targets for each lesson or as part of the unit.
- All lessons and student work are linked to a learning target.
- Summative assessments state the learning targets for the specific skills assessed.

### Teachers have created a rubric to go with each of their learning targets.

- A rubric is a scale that communicates grade-level expectations for learning targets and describes levels of understanding.
- Each rubric is derived from state/national standards and includes the clear learning targets.
- Students are made aware of the grading rubric before each summative assessment.
  - Rubric Scale
    - NS: Not sufficient data to allow staff to assign a rubric score.
    - 1: The student's performance shows limited proficiency and significant additional practice is needed.
    - 2: The student's performance shows partial proficiency but additional practice is needed.
    - 3: The student's performance shows grade level proficiency of the target.
    - 4: The student's performance shows grade level proficiency of the target and further application of the target.

### There are three different types of work and feedback:

- **Formative Work** is practice for the learning target, which is crucial to the learning process. It is not included in the grade, as students are still learning. Teachers use formative work to gauge students' progress on Learning Target and to inform instruction. Formative work can be oral or written.
- **Summative Work** is the final assessment for the learning target. It is 100% of the score found on the report card. The feedback helps students understand if they are meeting grade-level expectation of each Learning Target assessed.

### Expect Three Report Cards Yearly

A report card will be given at each conference (Nov. and March) to discuss your child's progress.

The final report card will be mailed home in May.

- **Work Habits** are skills students need to be successful learners (and future employees). The scores are separate and the feedback helps students understand what they can do to improve their employability skills. This includes not only attitude and behavior in class, but also effort towards assignments.

### Parents and students can use PowerSchool to check student progress. PowerSchool email updates list an overall score, but for more detailed information, log into PowerSchool and click on the blue scores.

- Some Formative Assessments scores are entered into PowerSchool to provide feedback on student progress, however they do not count towards the overall learning target score.
- All Summative Assessment scores are 100% of the overall learning target score.
- Work Habits are entered separately into PowerSchool.

## RETAKES

The goal is for every student to be proficient on every learning target. This will give our students their best possible chance to be successful in their future classes, college or other training after high school and careers. For this reason, all students that are not proficient will retake summative assessments.

- A plan will be made by the teacher to practice or reteach the Learning Target in class.
- Additional practice will be sent home if requested by student or parent.
- Retakes will only include the Learning Targets the student needs to improve upon.
- Students can retake any Learning Target to attain a 4.
- Most recent scores will be the final earned score, not an average.
- Teacher will continue to work with students over the course of the year to ensure proficiency.

## LATE WORK / ZEROS

- If a student does not complete or turn in a summative assessment, an I (incomplete) is entered into PowerSchool until the summative is completed and turned in.
- Late, missing and incomplete work is not counted against a student's overall class score, however it is recorded and is reflected in the work habits score.

## EXTRA CREDIT

- No extra credit is given in a Standards Based Grading system, as we instead are providing specific feedback about student progress on every learning target.