



SCHOOL DISTRICT 5

SOUTHEAST KOOTENAY

November 9, 2016

Dear Parents/Guardians:

RE: Communicating Your Child's Progress and Learning – K-9

In earlier communications, we shared that the Ministry of Education is redesigning curriculum and assessment to fit with the modern education system needed for today's world. The K – 9 curriculum is being implemented during this school year and the Graduation Years (Grades 10 – 12) is currently in its optional year.

With the curriculum being adapted to help our students succeed in our changing world, a new reporting system or approach is also underway. Effective and clear communication of student learning has always been an important aspect of public education and, traditionally, this communication took the form of a standard report card with comments and letter grades sent home three times per year and informal reports twice a year.

This summer, the Ministry of Education issued a new interim Student Reporting Order that provides flexibility for developing new reporting procedures for students in Grades K – 9 within each school district. The world has changed dramatically and there are many new and exciting tools now available to us. One thing that has not changed is the goal of providing parents and students with authentic, informative communication about their child's progress and learning.

Our goal is to design a reporting system that fully engages teachers, students and parents. Therefore, during the school year, ongoing communication (minimum of five times during the year) with you about your child's progress may take a variety of forms such as:

- Student-led and three-way conferences
- Parent/teacher meetings
- Written interim reports
- Electronic-portfolio reviews of your child's work
- Samples and demonstrations of student work

Communications with you may be provided in a variety of ways: **in person; through telephone, email, text, Skype, and other electronic means; and through reporting applications (traditional report cards, or via computer through programs such as Scholantis or FreshGrade).**

If your child's teacher is reporting in one of the flexible options, this will be communicated to you prior to the reporting time and, if letter grades are not a part of the communication (Grades 4 – 9), they can be given upon request.

At the end of the school year, or if a student moves, you will receive a **final written summative report**. The purpose of this report is to outline and summarize your child's achievement in the required areas of learning for that school year. It may contain information about your child's strengths, areas your child is

working on, and needs for further development. It will also provide information about their achievement and performance in relation to age/grade expectations. This final report will also include your child's self-assessment of the Core Competencies (Communication, Thinking, Personal and Social). This is intended to build student ownership and voice, and give students increased responsibility for the acquisition for these competencies.

During this school year, we will be asking parents to express their opinion and provide input into the process of reporting. The Ministry of Education is also seeking input and, until February 28, 2017, you can submit your thoughts online at <http://engage.gov.bc.ca/yourkidsprogress/en/home/>.

For more information about reporting, please contact your child's classroom teacher or principal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lynn Hauptman".

Lynn Hauptman
Superintendent