


Dear Parent(s) and/or Guardian(s):

- British Columbia has a redesigned curriculum which affords us an opportunity to think about how we assess and report on student progress. Our goal is to ensure that families are well informed about their children’s progress. We are currently working towards aligning student progress reporting with the new curriculum.

This year, all Saanich Middle Schools will be changing our assessment practices to reflect the BC Ministry of Education guidelines for communication of learning. Educational research has demonstrated that positive on-going communication between home and school is instrumental to student success. Communication can take the form of written reports, parent/teacher conferences, digital portfolios, student-led conferences and student reflection, and self-assessment.

In Saanich, as with other districts around the province, we will no longer be evaluating K-8 students using letter grades. We will be communicating student learning using the BC Ministry Proficiency Scale. This scale will communicate students’ current level of understanding within a given subject area. The Ministry has created the following visual to help explain the new language. **It is important to understand that these descriptors do not equate to letter grades.**

Proficiency Scale				
	Emerging	Developing	Proficient	Extending
	The student demonstrates an initial understanding of the concepts and competencies relevant to the expected learning.	The student demonstrates a partial understanding of the concepts and competencies relevant to the expected learning.	The student demonstrates a complete understanding of the concepts and competencies relevant to the expected learning.	The student demonstrates a sophisticated understanding of the concepts and competencies relevant to the expected learning.

We will be providing additional information about our updated assessment and reporting practices at school-based PAC meetings and at a district-wide parent information meeting at Bayside Middle School on November 5th at 7:00 pm.

We value your feedback as we implement these new assessment and reporting practices. If you have questions or concerns, please contact me at 250-652-7322.



Carly Hunter, Director of Instruction: Learning and Innovation