

HKIS High School

Communicating student learning to students and parents (updated August, 2017)

Communication of student learning is at the heart of an effective school. As such, we have created an extensive system of school-home communication centered on learning involving Parent/Student/Teacher conferences twice a year (generally late October and late February), formal grade checkpoints at Semester and Year end, and ongoing formative and summative feedback for each course in our on-line student learning platform (Schoology). In addition, reports on students' "Approaches to Learning" are sent at Quarterly points during the year.

Formal grade report cards have been replaced with Approaches to Learning reports and Parent/Teacher/Student conferencing at Quarter 1 (three days) and Quarter 3 (two days). There are several reasons for this:

- Our professional judgement is that the net value added by time used for 3 way conferences is far greater than that time being used for reporting a grade and using only written comments on a report card. Far more can be said, with far more nuance and tonal information, with face-to-face interaction than with written comments alone.
- Student attendance in our conferences will be mandatory; we believe that the conversations between parent, student and teacher are part of the learning process for your child. who will be asked to comment on his or her progress. This conversation will include strengths and areas for development in terms of knowledge and skills and learning habits.
- Feedback is more valuable if it is timely and accurate and ongoing. The Schoology platform gives teachers the ability to use feedback in a meaningful way throughout the course rather than just at fixed reporting times.

Continuing this year, formal grade report cards will be published and available through the PowerSchool link at the end of Semester One and again at the end of the year. The Power School link will also include all archived reports for the student.

Reports at the end of the first semester will include

- A check point grade or a final grade for semester long classes
- A brief description of the material covered in the class
- Ratings in the "Approaches to Learning" document with comments (as needed) specific to the overall categories of "Self Motivated Learning", "Collaboration" and "Respect & Responsibility".

Reports at the end of the year will include

- A final grade
- A brief description of the material covered in the class
- Ratings in the "Approaches to Learning" document with comments (as needed) specific to the overall categories of "Self Motivated Learning", "Collaboration" and "Respect & Responsibility".

Grades do not become final with GPA value attached until the course is completed. Thus, for year-long courses, the grade that is recorded at Semester One is a check point grade indicating progress on Summative Assessments to that point in the course. For more information, please refer to the [high school assessment and grading philosophy and practices](#).