

Whitehall-Coplay School District

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Dear Gockley Elementary Families,

The Whitehall-Coplay School District is excited to share an important update with you regarding our approach to student assessment and grading. Starting in the 2025-2026 school year, we will be transitioning from traditional grading to a standards-based grading system in Kindergarten and First Grade. This change marks the beginning of a phased roll-out that will extend to higher elementary grade levels in future years.

What is Standards-Based Grading?

Standards-based grading focuses on measuring student progress toward clearly defined learning standards rather than assigning a single overall grade. Instead of receiving percentages or letter grades, students will be evaluated based on their mastery of specific skills and concepts. This approach provides a clearer picture of what students can do and where they may need further support.

Why Are We Making This Change?

Our goal is to better reflect each student's learning and growth. With standards-based grading, teachers, parents/guardians and students will be able to more easily identify strengths and areas for improvement, as grades will be tied directly to progress on grade level standards. This system is designed to:

- **Provide clearer feedback:** Instead of one percentage or letter grade, students will receive specific feedback on each skill or standard, helping them understand what they have mastered and what needs more attention.
- **Promote growth:** Emphasizes improvement and learning over time, encouraging students to take ownership of their growth.
- **Support individualized learning:** This system allows for more individualized support, as it highlights areas where students may need additional help or enrichment.

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Phased Roll-Out

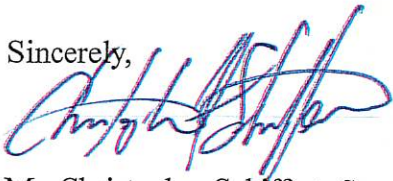
We understand that this is a significant change and we want to ensure a smooth transition for all families and students. As part of the phased roll-out:

- The 2025-2026 school year will see the implementation of standards-based grading for Kindergarten and First Grade at Gockley Elementary.
- In subsequent years, we will expand this system to Steckel Elementary and Zephyr Elementary, with full implementation by 2027-2028.

During the transition, we will offer resources and support for families to understand how standards-based grading works, including ongoing communication, a video mini-series, and informational sessions. We are committed to working closely with you throughout this process to ensure that you feel informed and confident in supporting your child's learning.

We believe that this updated grading system will offer more meaningful insights into your child's progress and will help foster a positive, growth-oriented learning environment. We are excited about this change and look forward to continuing the home-school partnership.

Sincerely,



Mr. Christopher Schiffert, Superintendent