



FAMILY GUIDE

Supporting Your Child in a Standards-Based Grading System



*Helping your child learn—
not just earn a grade.*



WHAT YOU'LL SEE ONLINE

When you view grades online, you'll have more information about your child's learning.

- ✓ Individual assignments and assessments
- ✓ The learning standard (what your child is expected to know or do)
- ✓ Your child's current level of performance on each standard
- ✓ Characteristics of a Successful Learner (work habits and learning behaviors)

UNDERSTANDING THE LEVELS



EXTENDING

Your child is going above and beyond grade-level expectations.

Shows deep understanding and can apply learning in new ways.



MEETING

Your child is meeting grade-level expectations.

Shows solid understanding of the standard.



DEVELOPING

Your child is still learning this standard.

Shows progress toward understanding but needs more practice and support.



BEGINNING

Your child needs more intensive support.

Shows very limited progress toward understanding.



The goal isn't to ask,
"What grade did you get?"

Instead, ask,
"What are you learning?"

QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR CHILD



If you see **MEETING** or **EXTENDING**
Celebrate their learning!

- What helped you be successful with this skill?
- Can you teach me how you solved this problem?
- Which standard are you most proud of?
- What's the next thing you'll be learning?



If you see **DEVELOPING**

Remember: Developing means your child is still learning—not that they've failed.

- What are you learning right now?
- What part is making sense?
- What part is still challenging?
- What feedback did your teacher give you?
- What can you do before the next assessment?
- Is there anything I can help you practice?

ASK ABOUT LEARNING TARGETS



Instead of...

"Did you get an A?"

Try asking...

- What learning target are you working toward?
- Which standards have you mastered?
- Which standards are you still practicing?
- How have you improved since the beginning of the unit?
- What are you hoping to improve next?

These conversations help students reflect on their learning and take ownership of their growth.

HOW FAMILIES CAN HELP



You don't need to reteach every lesson.

The most powerful support is showing interest in your child's learning.

- ✓ Celebrate growth, not just high scores.
- ✓ Encourage effort and perseverance.
- ✓ Read teacher feedback together.
- ✓ Ask questions before giving answers.
- ✓ Help your child set one small goal for improvement.



UNDERSTANDING THE CHARACTERISTICS OF A SUCCESSFUL LEARNER

In addition to academic standards, you'll also see feedback on important learning behaviors.



CLASSWORK

Reflects how consistently students complete and engage in assigned work.

Ask:

- Did you finish your work today?
- Did you ask for help when you needed it?
- Are there any assignments you still need to complete?



INDEPENDENCE & INITIATIVE

Reflects responsibility, perseverance, and self-management.

Ask:

- What did you do when something felt difficult?
- Did you try solving the problem before asking for help?
- What goal are you working on this week?



COMMUNICATION & COLLABORATION

Reflects how students communicate respectfully and work with others.

Ask:

- How did your group work together today?
- Did you share your ideas?
- Did you listen to others' perspectives?



Remember...

A "Developing" today doesn't mean your child won't be successful tomorrow. Learning takes time, practice, feedback, and persistence.

AT-A-GLANCE CONVERSATION STARTERS

Instead of asking...

"What grade did you get?"



Try asking...

"What are you learning?"



Instead of asking...

"Did you pass the test?"



Try asking...

"Which standards did this assessment measure?"



Instead of asking...

"Why isn't this higher?"



Try asking...

"What feedback did your teacher give you?"



Instead of asking...

"Are you done?"



Try asking...

"What is your next learning goal?"

