

Plan for Communicating Student Learning

At Oyster Pond Academy we believe that students are more successful when there is ongoing and effective communication between school and home. During this year there will be many ways that we will communicate with you about your student's progress.

Assessment is an important part of the teaching and learning process. A great deal of classroom assessment happens ongoing throughout the year and is designed to help the teacher monitor progress and make decisions about next steps for instruction. Regular attendance greatly supports student success and achievement. *Note: In the event that a student must miss school, teachers will provide students with the materials that were distributed in class during the student's absence.*

It is also key that parents/guardians and teachers work together to maintain regular communication regarding students' learning, progress, and well-being. Students will be provided with a variety of opportunities and ways to demonstrate their learning. Teachers will provide timely feedback to students during and after learning opportunities.

Student learning will be assessed using:

- Conversations with students
- Observations of learning
- Products students create to show their learning

At the end of each reporting period teachers will review the evidence of learning they have gathered and will use this information to report to Parent/Guardian about the student's progress in relation to the learning outcomes.

Report Cards and Student-Parent-Teacher Conferences

Three times this year you will receive a report card for your child. The front page will have information about your child's work habits, social skills and attendance. The remaining pages will describe your student's understanding in relation to the identified provincial outcomes for each curriculum area. Each subject will also have a comment written by the teacher outlining areas of strength, areas of need, and suggestions for next steps.

Term 1	Term 2	Term 3
Report cards go home between November 21 st and November 28 th , 2023. Student/Parent/Teacher (aka Raisin Reunion) is on Thursday, November 23 rd , 2023.	Report cards go home between March 25 th - April 4, 2024. Student/Parent/Teacher (aka Raisin Reunion) is on Thursday April 4 th , 2024	Report cards go home on Friday June 28 th , 2024.

Our Nova Scotia Student Assessment Policy ensures assessment, evaluation and reporting practices focus on enhancing all students' learning and achievement. This policy outlines inclusive and equitable assessment, evaluation and reporting practices, including reporting on cumulative evidence that reflects the ongoing nature of student learning. Evidence of learning from all concept areas of the curriculum addressed to date, with an emphasis on more recent work, is included in each report card.

When you receive your child's report card you may see a different grading scale used depending on the subject, the term, or the grade level. The following codes are used to describe student achievement * Please also see appendix.

Reporting Code	Letter Grades	Rubric Score
WD: Well Developed understanding and application of concepts and skills	A: Through understanding and application of concepts and skills	4: Through understanding and application of concepts and skills
DE: Developing as Expected with understanding and application of concepts and skills	B: Good understanding and application of concepts and skills	3: Good understanding and application of concepts and skills
ND: Needs Development with understanding and application of concepts and skills	C: Basic understanding and application of concepts and skills	2: Basic understanding and application of concepts and skills
	D: Limited understanding and application of concepts and skills. This student has not met expectations	1: Limited understanding and application of concepts and skills. This student has not met expectations

For important dates throughout the year, please see the [2023-2024 HRCE School Calendar](#)

Homework

Homework provides an important opportunity for students to practice and consolidate skills and is not graded. Homework should be assigned for concepts that have previously been taught, or as preparation for future instruction. Homework may include activities like practicing foundational skills in reading, writing and mathematics (e.g., reading for pleasure, educational games) and promoting healthy growth and development (e.g., practicing physical skills, interviewing family members). If your child is having difficulty with assigned homework, please reach out to the teacher so support can be provided. The [Homework Hub](#) (free online math tutoring) is also available for students in grades 4-12.

By EECED policy, every student is to receive *some* homework. Acknowledging the busy days of families and commitments to out-of-school activities, we aim to provide only reasonable amounts, with consideration for aiming to give none in September while everyone settles into routines, December which often proves busier than most months, and June when students are encouraged to take their opportunity to play outside, where possible.

Parent/Guardian Questions or Concerns

If you have a question or concern regarding your child's learning, please begin with your child's teacher – they are often in the best position to discuss the matter. If the concern remains unresolved, please contact the principal. Our focus is always working together to resolve the issue with the best interests of the student in mind.

Other Forms of Communication

The following are other forms of communication that are regularly used at our school. If there is something that you need support with, please contact your child's teacher or the school Administrative Assistant.

Teacher Communication

Each teacher communicates about the learning outcomes for their child's grade with a Classroom Communication Plan each Fall, and are posted to the schools' website as well. Teachers will also update you as

to your child's progress toward meeting the expected learning outcomes, beyond report cards alone, via phone, email, and in-person meetings by appointment. Many teachers also have classroom websites or Google Classrooms where information and updates are shared regularly. Please review the Classroom Communication Plan sent home from the teacher(s) and if you have any questions reach out to the teacher for more information.

Phone Calls and Messages

Our school office is open each day between 07:30am – 3:00pm. If you call during this time, you will likely reach our Administrative Assistant. If you call outside of these hours, or if the office is busy, we may not be able to take your call. Please leave a message and we will return your call as soon as we can. School Phone Number: 902-889-4300.

Email and Alerts

We often use SchoolMessenger to notify Parent/Guardian of important information and school events. Alerts are also used to provide notification of unexpected school closures and would be used in the event of an emergency. **Please ensure we have your correct phone number and email address.**

Parent Portal

The Parent Portal is an online portal that provides information about student attendance and learning. To get your login code for the Parent Portal, contact the school Administrative Assistant.

School Website

Our school website is updated regularly. On this site you can find the most up to date school calendar, announcements, other valuable information and email contacts for all teachers.

Student Planning Team

Sometimes it is necessary to have a meeting to develop a collaborative learning plan for a student. These meetings will include parents/guardians and members of the student's school team.

School Advisory Council

Our school has an active School Advisory Council (SAC) that meets regularly. The SAC provides recommendations on a variety of issues within the school to support student learning. For more information, please contact our Chair, Simone North, at hrce-sac-opa@gnspes.ca.

Appendix- Communicating Assessment with Students and Parents

Student	Teacher	Report Cards	Parent/Guardian
<p>SUPER!</p> <p>(#likealeader)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I really understand this It is easy for me I can use this idea on my own 	<p>Super/Consistent</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clear understanding Communicates concept in multiple representations Shows evidence of applying the concept without support 	<p>A/4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Student demonstrates achievement with thorough understanding in relation to the expected outcomes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consistently Confidently Independently
<p>ON TARGET</p> <p>(#likeaboss)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I understand this I can use this idea on my own most of the time 	<p>On Target/Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understands and/or is developing well Communicates concept using designated models and steps in two representations Shows evidence of using the concept without support 	<p>B/3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Student demonstrates achievement with good understanding in relation to the expected learning outcomes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regularly Frequently Confidently Independently
<p>ALMOST THERE</p> <p>(#cantstopwontstop)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I am learning about this Sometimes I can use this idea on my own 	<p>Almost There/Approaching</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrates a growing understanding Communicates concept using designated models and steps in one representation with or without support, or in two representations with support Benefits from assistance thinking about and/or applying the concept 	<p>C/2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Student demonstrates achievement with basic understanding in relation to the expected learning outcomes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Often In growing fashion With support With encouragement Benefits from support to... Is guided toward
<p>KEEP GOING</p> <p>(#ivegotgoals)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I find this confusing It is difficult to do on my own I needed an adult to help me with this 	<p>Keep Going/Emerging</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrates an emerging understanding Communicates concept using designated models and steps in one representation with support Demonstrates some misunderstanding, benefitting from support 	<p>D/1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Student demonstrates achievement with limited understanding in relation to the expected learning outcomes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sometimes In emerging fashion With regular support With much encouragement Benefits from steady support to... Benefits from one-to-one support to...

Modified from [Elementary and Middle School Mathematics Teaching Developmentally](#) By John A Van de Walle