



DATE: October 15, 2015
TO: Parents
FROM: Dr. Trace Pickering, Associate Superintendent
SUBJECT: Learner-Centered Assessment

As we engage in our first student/teacher conferences and mid-term reporting period since moving fully to a Learner-Centered Assessment approach, I want to share some important information with you.

First, thank-you for supporting your teachers in this endeavor. While moving away from a 100 year practice is difficult, we know it is the right thing to do. We want all our students to successfully attain and demonstrate the standards they are responsible to meet. We can't effectively or fairly do this with the old system.

The staff have poured their heart and soul into making this work and work hard every day to improve it and make it better. As with any change, there are bumps and mistakes and this change has been no different.

Your teachers know how to implement this approach. They know much more about what your child knows now and what they need next to keep advancing. The problems we are encountering in this transition is not in the how and the skills of the staff, but rather in the system structures that need to support it.

We use PowerSchool for our grading and reporting system. PowerSchool is designed to support the more traditional approach to grading. While our provider has worked to make Learner-Centered Assessment do-able, it isn't the perfect system for it.

In order to get started we had to get all of the core academic standards loaded and organized for every class and teacher. We had to train the staff on how to use the new reporting features and scoring book. We had to learn how reports worked for parents and staff. Needless to say, we didn't do this work perfectly the first time.

So, as you look at the report card and log in to PowerSchool, you may see small anomalies in how things are organized or displayed. Know that we are working on the issues as they arise or we become aware of them. Please do not correlate these needed improvements with the success of LCA implementation.

We are committed to continuing to prepare your child for the world they will face and to equip them with the ability to own their own learning and move successfully into high school and beyond. Thank you for allowing us to be your partner in educating your child!

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