

September 18, 2017

Dear Middle School Parent/Guardian,

Our middle school staff members have been working hard on using Standards Based Grading (SBG) practices and reporting. You will soon receive a midterm report in the mail. On this report you will see three marks: P, D, or F. Traditional grades of A, B, or C, will show as a "P", which stands for progressing, while D's and F's will be displayed to give families a proper warning that your student may be in danger of receiving a failing mark at the end of the quarter.

The purpose of SBG is to identify student strengths and areas of need. The best way to measure your student's strengths/needs is through specific feedback using proficiency levels (Exceeding, Meeting, Approaching, Beginning); not letter grades. Proficiency levels tell you exactly where students need to focus in order to show mastery of a standard. Therefore, we are encouraging parents/guardians to look beyond letter grades to see a more complete picture of your student's progress.

- If your student receives a "P", he/she currently shows understanding of important skills and concepts.
- If your student receives a "D" or "F", he/she currently shows limited understanding or insufficient evidence of important skills and concepts. After you have explored the JumpRope portal, you may inquire about resources to help your student grow academically and the possibility to retake assessments.

For a closer view of your student's mastery of standards, please visit our new reporting system, [Jumpro.pe](http://Jumpro.pe), by clicking on the "Resources" portion of your school's website. To login use your student's email address as the username and your student's ID number as the password. If you have trouble accessing the portal, please request a written report from the teacher.

While exploring the student/family portal for the first time, consider these questions:

- *What do the four levels of proficiency (EX, M, A, B) represent?*
- *What does a "U", "N", or "X" mean?*
- *What are Work Habits?*
- *How can I view more than just the letter grade?*
- *Are all courses using JumpRope?*
- *How can I help my child continue to grow?*

Please note, midterms only represent about 5 weeks of instruction. Time will allow teachers to gather more evidence as first quarter progresses. A student's performance can change over time. Parents and students can take ownership of learning by using [Jumpro.pe](http://Jumpro.pe) to locate areas that need more attention.

**End of Quarter Return to Grades:** At the end of each quarter, traditional grades (A,B,C,D,F) will return. We will convert P's into A's, B's, or C's. This conversion will help everyone transition and understand the power of Standards Based Grading. By first using proficiency levels to report the mastery of standards, it is our hope that students and families will know where to focus throughout the year to maximize learning.

In an effort to better partner with families and improve SBG, we will offer the following:

- family SBG panels
- family help desk hours
- student and family surveys
- website updates to share resources and information about SBG

Please provide your building principal with your contact information if you are interested in taking part in family panels.

Thank you for your continued patience, support and feedback.

Sincerely,



Angela L. Ward

*Assistant Superintendent for Achievement & Equity*

*We are committed to raising standards and achievement for all Unit 4 middle school students.*