



# Rockheights Middle School

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Dear Families,

We wanted to share with you that we will be involved in piloting a provincial initiative for the 2022-2023 school year that will see all classroom teachers use Proficiency Scales, instead of letter grades, to communicate student learning. A change in reporting practice can be seen across the province, as school districts work to align themselves with the Ministry of Education’s reporting policy and with BC’s curriculum. We anticipate that by the 2023-2024 school year, all K-9 schools province wide will be using the Proficiency Scales. We realize that this is familiar to many of you as some of our elementary schools have already made the shift in their assessment and reporting practices for K-5.

### *Why the Shift?*

Proficiency Scales are based on communicating and describing each student’s growth and progression along a continuum of learning. All reports will continue to reflect strengths, areas for improvement and ways to deepen learning. Research is clear that traditional letter grades signal the end of learning by suggesting that a particular subject is mastered or completed, but learning is a continuous process. This model fosters a growth mindset for students, empowering confidence that our abilities will continue to develop with hard work, effort, and determination.

This image is the one provided by the Ministry of Education as some areas of the province started this work as early as 2019.

One thing to emphasize is that the goal for all students is to become “Proficient” in their skills and content knowledge.

Proficiency Scale	→			
	Emerging	Developing	Proficient	Extending
	The student demonstrates an initial understanding of the concepts and competencies relevant to the expected learning.	The student demonstrates a partial understanding of the concepts and competencies relevant to the expected learning.	The student demonstrates a complete understanding of the concepts and competencies relevant to the expected learning.	The student demonstrates a sophisticated understanding of the concepts and competencies relevant to the expected learning.

Teachers will be working with students to ensure that they understand the specific expectations for each curricular area and we really hope this will allow students to take ownership over their learning.

In terms of reporting student progress, we believe it is important for families to receive information about their child(ren)’s learning. The shift to the Proficiency Scale will:

- Focus on learning as a continuous process
- Support a better understanding of the learning that has taken place including a focus on next steps
- Promote a growth-mindset or a belief that we can all get continue to improve
- Foster hope and a culture of learning as a lifelong process

Please feel free to contact us here at the school if you have any questions and for more information we will be planning a parent information evening in October. We look forward to seeing you there.

Sincerely,

Aaron Maxwell  
Principal

Christina Pelletier  
Vice Principal