



MEDICINE HAT PUBLIC SCHOOL DIVISION

**Guide to Student Assessment,
Achievement, and Learning**

Medicine Hat Christian School

Grades K-9

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Guide to Student Assessment, Achievement, and Learning

Teachers in Medicine Hat Public School Division are focused on supporting our students to be independent and successful learners. As part of this work, teachers in all our schools are engaged in developing and using assessment practices that assess students based on outcomes. Outcomes describe what your child is expected to know and do according to the Alberta Education Programs of Study.

Students need to know and understand the outcomes they need to achieve, what they are doing to achieve them, and what they will do once they have achieved them. This is the work teachers do together with students in the classroom. As students demonstrate their learning and achievement, teachers assess progress and, at key points during the year, formally assess student achievement on those outcomes. There should be regular communication with students and parents about the learning and levels of achievement throughout the year. One of the communication tools parents are used to is a progress report or report card. In elementary schools, these are printed documents sent home to parents. In grades 7 through 12, these are often reflected online on PowerSchool and/or printed as formal reports and sent home.

ACTIONS TO SUPPORT STUDENT SUCCESS

You can support your child's learning and success by:

- Knowing you are an important part of the team
- Creating routines at home that help your child be prepared for learning every day
- If your child is healthy, making sure your child attends school regularly and on time
- If your child is away, connecting with the Teacher and Google Classroom so your child can work on-line.
- Be informed and engage with the teacher – reading teacher weekly highlights / updates
- Asking questions of your child's teacher if you're unsure about where your child is at
- Participating in parent-student-teacher interviews/conferences (whether they are on-line or in person)
- Talking with your child about what they are learning each day.

Teachers will help your child's learning and success by:

- Providing programming that is suitable for your child
- Providing multiple opportunities and ways for students to show what they know and can do
- Planning with students (and parents) when students have missed important assessments or activities
- Communicating in student friendly language how student work will be graded/marked
- Keeping detailed evidence of your child's achievement and challenges
- General weekly highlights/updates and regularly communicating with you about how your child is doing (Google Classroom, Emails, Phone Calls, PT Interviews).
- Using Universal Screening Tools for reading and math to plan for instruction and learning.

Students have a responsibility for their learning:

- Attend school either in-person or on-line
- Ask questions and be participants in classroom and school activities
- Demonstrate their learning by finishing assignments to the best of their ability
- Let the teacher know when they need help
- Take advantage of chances offered to revise or redo assignments or tests so they can show growth in their knowledge or skills

HOW DO WE DETERMINE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT?

At Medicine Hat Public School Division, we determine grades/marks in a variety of ways.

Formative Assessments

Over the course of the year, your child should have many opportunities to develop and practice key skills and increase what they know. These opportunities show your child's teacher how they are doing, what their strengths are, and where they can improve. This is called formative assessment

Summative Assessments

Throughout the school year, your child will have opportunities to demonstrate what they have learned by an identified point in time. These assessments are marked and are put together with other evidence. Teachers then make decisions using the work your child has completed (products), what they've seen your child do (observations), and discussions they've had with your child (conversations), to determine a mark on the report card.

Missing or Incomplete Student Work

It is important that teachers communicate with parents/guardians regularly and in a timely fashion about missing or incomplete student work. In our school, you can expect that teachers will use the following methods to communicate with you about this area:

- Emails sent directly from the teacher
- Notes in Google Classroom and phone calls home
- Parent / Teacher meetings

It is important that students who are absent from school and miss assignments and/or summative assessments, complete these as soon as possible from the original assessment date unless otherwise determined by the teacher. For students who miss significant time due to vacation, arrangements can be made with the classroom teacher to work on-line on Google Classroom and/or upon your return to send assignments home in a way that is safe (especially if a family is self-isolating).

SCHOOL ASSESSMENT & REPORTING COMMUNICATION PLAN

Our school uses many tools and ways to make sure you are informed during the school year. Please make sure you review information communicated to you about your child.

Reporting Terms:

TERMS	DATES	COMMUNICATION TYPE & DATE
Term 1	K-9 - Term 1 - (Aug 31, 2020 - Nov 19, 2020) K-9 - P/T Conferences – (Oct 28 + 29, 2020) 1-9 - Report Card - (Nov 27, 2020) Early Years Evaluation Report Conferences (Kindergarten students only) - Nov 25+26	K-9 Teacher weekly updates/highlights, personal emails or phone calls home - (Aug 31 – Nov 19, 2020) K-9 P/T Conferences – Virtual – (Oct 28 + 29, 2020) 1-9 Printed Report Card – (Nov 27, 2020) Early Years Evaluation Report Conferences (Kindergarten students only) - Virtual - Nov 25+26
Term 2	K-9 - Term 2 - (Nov 19, 2020 – Mar 18, 2021) K-9 - P/T Conferences – (Feb 24 + 25, 2021) 1-9 - Report Card - (March 26, 2021) Kindergarten Portfolios - (Mar 24 + 25, 2021)	K-9 Teacher weekly updates/highlights, personal emails or phone calls home - (Nov 19 – Mar 18, 2021) K-9 P/T Conferences – Virtual – (Feb 24 + 25, 2021) 1-9 Printed Report Card – (Mar 26, 2020) Kindergarten Portfolios - (Mar 24 + 25, 2021)
Term 3	K-9 - Term 3 - (Mar 18, 2021 – June 25, 2021) K-9 - Report Card - (June 25, 2021)	K-9 Teacher weekly updates/highlights, personal emails or phone calls home (Mar 18, – June 25, 2021) K-9 - Printed Report Card - (June 25, 2021)

Ongoing Communication:

It is important that you know what your child is learning about and their achievement along the way. To support this, our teachers commit to:

- Weekly updates/highlights for all parents (email, Google Classroom, See Saw)
- Being available outside at the end of the day to talk with parents
- Parent contact (email, Google Message, or phone call home) when a student is struggling or missing work. This should happen before the Oct PT Conference and before Nov report cards go out. It should also happen before March and June final report cards so parents are not caught off guard that there is missing work and/or their child is struggling.

UNDERSTANDING REPORTING (Grades 1 – 9)

WHAT ARE THE ACHIEVEMENT INDICATORS?

Achievement Indicators describe the level to which your child is achieving in each of the categories on the report card.

If your child receives an M for MEETING, he or she has achieved the grade-level outcome to an ACCEPTABLE standard. If your child receives an E for EXCELLING, this demonstrates a DEEPER LEVEL of mastery within the grade-level outcome.

It is important to note that not all specific learner outcomes can be evaluated at the excelling level. Some outcomes may only reflect knowledge or skill that is either met or not met.

E	M	A	B
<p>Excelling in grade level outcomes. Student evidence of learning may be: In depth, perceptive, insightful, thorough, independent. Overall achievement at this level means the student can be confident of being prepared and able to take on new challenges in subsequent grades/courses.</p>	<p>Meeting grade level outcomes. Student evidence of learning may be: accurate, thoughtful, logical, complete, independent. Overall achievement at this level means a student can be confident of being prepared for work in subsequent grades/courses.</p>	<p>Approaching grade level outcomes. Student evidence of learning may be: partially accurate, basic, simplistic, incomplete, in progress. Additional supports may be necessary to further learning in this area.</p>	<p>Beginning grade level outcomes. Student evidence of learning may be: inaccurate, vague, undeveloped, minimal, limited. Additional planning and instructional supports will be necessary for further learning in this area.</p>

WHAT ABOUT OTHER PROGRAMMING INDICATORS?

Teachers, based on the needs of a student, may need to add additional information about the type of programming that affects the way your child's achievement is recorded. Your child's teacher may still reflect a level of achievement next to the outcomes on the report card, but they may be based on adaptations or in the case of some students, the level of achievement and growth may be reflected in an Individual Support Plan (ISP). Parents should always be aware prior to the report card if these indicators are used.

ELL (English Language Learner)	Adapted	Modified
The student's language proficiency level impacts the evaluation of achievement	Student is working on provincial curriculum with adjustments made to instruction	Student is working on programming significantly different than provincial curriculum. The student's Individual Support Plan (ISP) will reflect more specific achievement towards goals.

WHAT ABOUT EFFORT OR BEHAVIOUR?

The Learner Attributes allow you to see how your child is developing the learning skills and abilities needed to succeed in their own learning as part of the classroom community. These Learner Attributes focus on participation, cooperation, quality work, and respect for self and others. Teachers use observations to identify how often these attributes are demonstrated using the scale below:

C - Consistently	U - Usually	S - Sometimes	R - Rarely
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HOW WILL PROVINCIAL ACHIEVEMENT TESTS BE REPORTED?

If Provincial Achievement Tests in Grade 6 and 9 are administered, they will be included for parent information as it becomes available. Categories such as “below acceptable standard” “acceptable standard” and “standard of excellence” are typically reported.

UNDERSTANDING REPORTING (Grades 10 - 12)

Our high schools will continue to report in percentages for a final course grade as that is the requirement for entry into post-secondary (college and university); however, it should be noted that post secondary institutions rarely grade using percentages and generally utilize a 4 point scale or letters connected to a 4 point scale.