

How Do I Support My Student's Education?

1. What is "Criterion Based Grading"?

It is a way of reporting what students know and how they demonstrate learning of content standards using the IB MYP rubrics. Each class uses rubrics for each of the criteria areas. Every assessment allows students to demonstrate their skills in different areas. A student's grade is based on all of the evidence demonstrated.

2. How is it different from traditional grading?

Traditional grading compared each student to other students and often used subjective measures, such as participation and effort to determine a final grade. Criterion-based grading compares each student's performance to a clearly stated performance standard.

3. How often am I informed about my student's progress?

Each quarter, your student receives a "grade in progress". Parents who are registered with Parent Portal (an online access to student information such as grades, attendance, discipline, etc) do not receive quarterly report cards. Only those parents not registered receive a quarterly report card. In addition, students who are earning a D or an NC in a class receive a printed report in the mail.

4. How do I register with Parent Portal?

Register online @ www.rdale.org

- Click on parent tab at top of page
- Click on "Parent Portals" (left side)
- Click on "Parent Portal Registration Form" (left side)
- Fill out the form completely and click "Send"

5. What terminology will be helpful for me when viewing my student's grades?

- a. **Formatives:** a "forming" of the understanding of concepts and skills taught during a unit.
- b. **Summative:** a final demonstration of a students' learning throughout the unit; it's the "summation" of the learning.
- c. **"I" or Incomplete:** not enough summatives were turned in before the deadline to earn a grade for credit. Students may turn in work 7 weeks beyond the end of semester one only. No "I"s given for semester two.
- d. **"0":** the student took the assessment but didn't earn a high enough score to earn a grade.
- e. **"M" or Missing:** work was never turned in.
- f. **"NM" or No mark:** There is not yet enough evidence gathered to determine a grade.

6. What happens if my student receives an NC?

Generally, students need to make up this missing credit in an after school credit recovery program or summer school. The student needs to make an appointment with the grade level counselor to register for either option.

7. How do I know when to worry and when to be proud?

You can loosely translate assignment scores from 0-8 to the following traditional scale:

7 or 8= A range

6 or 7= B range

4 or 5= C range

2 or 3= student is not demonstrating the skill and is in danger of not passing

0 or 1= student is not demonstrating the skill and is in danger of not passing

8. If my student is not making adequate progress, what are the steps I should take to make sure he/she will improve?

The first step is to discuss the class with your student. Next, contact the teacher via email or phone. It is each teacher's goal to respond 24 hours after an initial contact. After that, you may want to contact your student's Dean or Assistant Principal.

9. If my student misses an assignment or test because of being absent from school, what should my student do?

Each teacher establishes days of the week and times that students can make up formatives and/or summatives. Students should speak with the teacher in person to arrange for a time that works best for teacher and student.

10. When does a final grade go on the transcript?

Final grades are established at the end of each semester. Semester one ends in the middle of January and semester two ends at the beginning of June.