



*School of Choice for Global Education*

# École Arbutus Global Middle School

*Celebrating Diversity. Seeking Sustainability.*

Dear Parents,

November 25, 2016

As we near the end of the first term, teachers are preparing report cards in one of the three formal reports that will be sent home this year. As you know, we have changed over to a new curriculum and as a result report cards may look different than they have in the past. Teachers can use one of three tools to create a formal report, and each of these tools will be used to meet the expectations as set out by the Ministry of Education, which includes:

- Letter grades will be assigned to the Core Subject areas (<https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/curriculum>)
- Comments will be made on your child's progress in each subject area including: 1) what they are able to do, 2) where they are still developing, and 3) how to support their learning next term.
- There will be an overall comment that includes feedback on your child's behavior, attitudes, work habits and effort.

These tools may look different than you have experienced in the past so we wanted to ensure that you know a little about the different formats you may be seeing. The three tools are as follows:

1. **MyEd BC** - This is the same format that was used last year. Each subject has a specific section that will contain a letter grade and a comment. There will be a specific course called Social Responsibility that will include the behavior, attitudes, work habits and effort comment for your child.
2. **Communicating Student Learning (CSL)** - This is a new tool that has been developed around the new curriculum and also has a section for each subject area, but each section will make reference to the specific learning standards that were covered in the term. A letter grade will be assigned, as well as a performance standard for each area of the learning standards areas. Comments may be separated into specific subjects or combined as an overall comment found in the Advisory Teacher comment area.
3. **FreshGrade** - This is a digital portfolio that your child has been creating throughout the term. There are artifacts that the students have uploaded that demonstrate their understanding of the learning standards and there are teacher comments with the artifacts to support their assessment of the student's progress in achieving the learning standards. There will be a "summary report" that will be included that contains letter grades for each of the subject areas. This may be in the portfolio or in hard copy.

With the new curriculum there is a new subject area called Applied Design, Skills and Technologies. This curriculum as well as the Careers curriculum will be reported upon, in comment form only, at the end of the school year on the Term 3 Report Card. Many of the learning standards from these areas will be covered in our exploratory classes this year.

Resource room reports, band reports, ELL reports and exploratory reports will be included in the form of paper inserts. These will be the same as previous years and all students will have a report card envelope sent home that will have your child's inserts and written reports contained in it. As in the past, please keep any of the inserts and then sign the envelope and return it to indicate that you have received the term one report materials.

We know that this will be a change for many of you and if you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact your child's advisory teacher or Mr. Parker or Mr. Maxwell in the office.