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Learning for a Lifetime

October 2, 2017

Dear Parents and Guardians:

During the 2017 – 2018 school year, all kindergarten to grade 8 teachers in School District 43 (Coquitlam) will be using a standard report card for communicating student learning. This enhanced report card is designed to align with the Ministry of Education's Reporting Order, the Framework for Enhancing Student Learning and the Board of Education's Directions 2020 Goals.

This report card was field-tested and refined, last school year, by a team of teachers and school administrators. The report uses performance scales, letter grades, teacher and student comments to communicate student progress. The result is a report card that supports the redesigned B.C. curriculum, (<https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca>) which has an increased emphasis on thinking skills and core competencies: communication, creative thinking, critical thinking, positive personal and cultural identity, personal awareness and responsibility, and social responsibility across subject areas.

Some schools and programs, for example the Montessori Program, have developed alternate methods of communicating student learning to parents that do not rely on issuing letter grades. The approaches used by these schools conform to the Ministry of Education Reporting Order and have been reviewed and authorized at the school district level.

Changes in communicating student learning and reporting are essential to the authentic implementation of B.C.'s redesigned curriculum. Parents and guardians play an important role and will continue to be invited to participate in the dialogue about assessment and the communication of student learning in preparing students for a rapidly changing, exciting and opportunity-filled future.

Thank you for your support for student learning and for the implementation of the Ministry of Education's redesigned curriculum.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patricia Gartland".

Patricia Gartland
Superintendent of Schools