

September 2018

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Subject: Family Conference – Carson Graham Family of Schools

There are a variety of initiatives related to assessing and communicating student learning within the North Vancouver School District. The student-parent-teacher “Family Conference” reporting format, introduced in the Carson Graham Family of Schools in 2017/2018, is one such initiative that will be continuing at your school in 2018/2019.

The Family Conference provides an opportunity for students, parents and teachers to collectively evaluate and reflect on student learning, with an increased emphasis on student self-reflection, goal setting and metacognitive awareness. During the Conference, both the student and teacher together will share with parents/guardians examples of student learning, reflecting on areas of strength and identifying areas for further growth. Teachers will share their insights and observations of the student’s progress, and discuss how best to support the student’s learning. Prior to the Family Conference, students will work on a self-reflection assignment in class and identify their personal learning goals for the year. These learning goals will be discussed during the Family Conference, and collectively, students, parents and teachers will determine ways to best achieve these goals. Over the next few weeks, each school will provide more information about the Family Conferences, which will be scheduled over a period of four days in November.

Additionally, within the Carson Graham Family of Schools, students are not provided with letter grades and, instead, the following performance standards are used to assess student learning throughout the year:

Beginning	Student demonstrates limited understanding and attempts to apply knowledge and skills to situations the same as those modeled and practiced.
Developing	Student demonstrates partial understanding by applying knowledge and skills to situations similar to those previously modeled and practiced.
Practicing	Student demonstrates conceptual understanding through transference of knowledge and skills to situations not already modeled and practiced.
Extending	Student demonstrates exceptional conceptual understanding through innovative transference of knowledge and skills to situations not already modeled and practiced.

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In December, students will receive an abbreviated report card as their first written report. This report card will be based upon the above performance standards only, with teacher comments on their learning provided verbally during the Family Conference. In the second and third reporting periods, students will receive a report card that shows both the performance standards information, as well as written teacher comments.

In summary, for the 2018-19 school year, all elementary schools in the Carson Graham Family of Schools will follow the schedule below:

First Reporting Period:	Family Conference with student, parent(s)/guardian(s), and teacher (abbreviated report card)
Second Reporting Period:	Report card using performance standards and teacher comments
Final Reporting Period:	Report card using performance standards and teacher comments

Additional information about the new BC curriculum and assessment framework can be found on the Ministry of Education New Curriculum website: <https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Atkinson".

Chris Atkinson
Assistant Superintendent
North Vancouver School District