



Engaging Students for Successful Futures

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August 28, 2023

Dear Parents,

Beginning in 3rd grade, students in Rock Hill Schools receive numeric grades. Grades provide important feedback about your student's academic progress each quarter during the school year.

Elementary Grading Guidelines were updated this summer, and you can review these updates below:

Students will receive major and minor grades. Major grades measure a student's mastery of the concepts and skills that directly align with state standards. Major grades will account for 60% of a student's final quarter grade. Minor grades measure a student's progress to identify strengths and areas of need while working toward mastery of standards-based learning targets. Minor grades will account for 40% of a student's final quarter grade.

It is important that there is a sufficient number of grades each quarter to allow a student to demonstrate mastery. Therefore, the following chart shows the number of grades each teacher should assess for each student in each content area.

Reading	5-9 total grades
Writing	4-6 total grades
Math	7-10 total grades
Social Studies	4-8 total grades
Science	4-8 total grades

The goal of a retest is for students to demonstrate mastery of grade level standards. Students that score below an 80 on an ELA or Math major assessment will have one opportunity to retake the major assessment for a maximum grade of 80 **after being retaught content**. Parents, it is important to remind your student that a retest must be completed within the 9-week grading period in which the student scored below an 80 on a major assessment. It is our goal that students initiate the request to take a retest. Your child's teacher will help students with recognizing when retests are available; however, we do want your child to begin to understand his/her grades and empower your child to positively recognize the impact they can have on their own grades. If, by chance, the student scores lower on the retest than the initial assessment, the teacher is expected to record the highest score.

Parents, if your child receives a grade lower than a 50 on any major or minor assignment within a 9-week grading period, the teacher will record the actual grade in Canvas/PowerSchool. Progress reports will reflect your student's actual grades earned. A zero will be recorded if your child does not complete and submit graded work. While this is not intended to be punitive, the zero will serve as a reminder to you that late and missing assignments must be submitted before the 9-week grading period concludes.

Homework provides another opportunity for students to practice new concepts. Homework assignments provided to students will not be graded; however, it is important for your child to practice these skills to ensure they are confident with the new learning that is introduced.

In all situations that your child is absent from school, he/she will be provided with adequate time to complete graded assignments without penalty within each 9-week grading period.

There are many ways a teacher will communicate with you about your child's academic progress in addition to report card grades. You will receive feedback through parent teacher conferences, progress reports, and graded assignments sent home. Connect with your student's teachers at any time to understand your student's progress. Be sure to sign up for weekly grading reports in your Parent Portal account. If you need assistance with this process, your school can help!

As a reminder, report cards will be distributed on the following dates:

October 26, 2023

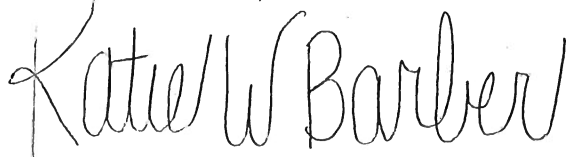
January 16, 2024

March 27, 2024

June 6, 2024

We value your partnership in your child's academic growth this year. If you have any questions about these updated elementary grading guidelines, please contact your school administrators.

Yours in Education,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Katie W Barber". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Katie W. Barber, Ph.D.