

## **FAQ Relating to PowerSchool Parent Portal Grades K-4**

### **Q What is standards-based grading?**

**A** It reflects the current level of mastery of each standard rather than average performance over time. A standards-based grading philosophy is best demonstrated by referencing a basic skill. Consider a kindergarten student who knows 10 capital letters in August, 15 in September, and all 26 by the end of the first grading period. Traditional grading would say we should average those scores and give the student credit for knowing 17 out of 26 letters. When we were kids that would have been a “D.” At the primary level, we believe it is appropriate to more accurately reflect what the child can currently do since they are continually acquiring new skills. For that reason, we want the grade at the end of October for the student above to reflect that the skill is mastered (4), not that the child is performing at a “D” level.

### **Q Am I seeing all standards?**

**A** No, you are seeing just those that have been scored so far. By the end of the school year we will assess all standards. If you would like to access all of the standards for your child’s grade, there is a link you may reference on each building’s webpage called Learning Standards for Grades K-4.

### **Q Why do I see just one score for each standard?**

**A** You are seeing the current overall score. These scores may change throughout the quarter if additional assessments are given on that standard.

### **Q What should I expect to see for my kindergarten student in classes like art, music, and physical education?**

**A** For kindergarten students, special area courses are graded at the semester so you will see scores during second and fourth quarter only for those classes.

### **Q What do the scores 4, 3, 2, and 1 mean?**

**A** Grades K-4 Evaluation Scale

- 4 Consistently demonstrating mastery of the standard
- 3 Approaching mastery of the standard
- 2 Partial achievement of the standard
- 1 Not meeting the standard

### **Q Where is the link to their math and science resources?**

**A** Once you log in, there is a column of links on the left. Click “Pearson Courses” and that will take you to the resources available to you and your child.

Please contact your child’s teacher or principal with any additional questions.

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