



School News

Helen Haller Elementary

Letter from the Principal

An Explanation of 1st Semester Grading: When you look at your student's report card, more categories (which are referred to as standards) will contain asterisks than in a typical school year. Normally there are just a few standards that are not assessed during the first semester due to the sequencing of the curriculum.

While that still holds true this school year, there are additional standards that are not graded due to the limitations of distance learning and the varying amounts of participation in online learning have made it difficult for teachers to accurately assess students' skill levels.

Grading System: If you have students who have received report cards before, you know we use a numerical grading system. We will continue to use the numerical system while also utilizing both *asterisks* "*" and *IPs*."

*-asterisks mean that a standard has not been covered.

IP – Due to covid – the IP grade has been added. It means "in progress". That means a student is progressing toward a standard. While there may be some evidence of mastery, there is not yet enough evidence to give a grade.

In the numerical grading system:

4 = student has mastered the standard and is working above grade level.

3 = student has demonstrated that they have met an individual standard.

2 = student is approaching the standard but needs additional assistance to improve.

1 = Limited growth toward the standard. ***Due to Covid we will not be using this grade for 1st semester.***

It is important to remember that students have until the end of their school year to meet the standard. It is not uncommon for a student to be at a 2 level at the end of the first semester, but then improve and make it to a 3 by the end of the school year.

To earn a 4 a student needs to clearly demonstrate that they have gone beyond the standard, or what is expected. There have been limited opportunities for students to demonstrate going beyond the standards, due to the constraints of distance learning. Please read the comments section of your student's report card for more clarification.

The HHE staff also recognizes that during the past months that many students and families may have faced connectivity and device problems, scheduling, motivation, and childcare challenges, as well as economic impacts during this difficult time. We thank you for your time and efforts so far. We look forward to providing meaningful in-person educational experiences for your child in the 2nd semester.

The best way to help your student improve is to engage daily in the school and online learning opportunities. Please contact our office if you need assistance accessing online learning or additional specialist supports for reading and math.

Please reach out for help to your student's classroom teacher or for other supports or concerns contact the office: helenhaller@sequimschools.org or 360-582-3200.

Sincerely, *Mrs. Stanton*—Principal

A LOOK AHEAD:

31 [Hi-Cap referrals due](#)

February

05 Report cards mailed home

