



Francis Walsh Intermediate School

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Dear WIS Families,

Last year, the WIS staff spent time during professional development learning about best practices in assessing, grading, and capturing student understanding. All too often in education it becomes about the grade and not about the learning. At Walsh, we are shifting our practices toward deeper, more meaningful learning experiences. At the same time, we are working to capture the learning and communicate that growth and progress to families and students. Through our professional development and continuous professional discussions, we are learning how to fairly:

- assess the content area standards adopted by the state of CT.
- describe a student's growth from the beginning of a unit to the end of the unit
- use rubrics effectively in combination with the traditional grading model that is in place
- communicate with students about their academic progress and performance
- give students a clear understanding of where they are at a certain point in time and where they need to grow

We want Walsh students to focus on their learning and their grades. Teachers use several data points throughout the year including entrance/exit slips, conference notes, observations, online practice assessments, notebook checks and many others to check for student understanding. We continue to seek ways to capture these important assessments through our current reporting model.

Through the years, Infinite Campus (IC) has been an excellent resource in keeping parents informed about their child's progress. We encourage families and students to continue to monitor IC. You will continue to see how your child has done on a quiz, project, or homework assignment through IC. All the assignments will be in view with a grade posted next to it. If there is not a grade entered or if it says missing, you may want to talk to your child about the importance of completing all assignments.

If you do not see the IN-PROGRESS grade- Do not panic! You will have access to the GRADE IN PROGRESS during the midpoint of the trimester and the FINAL grade at the end of the semester. Here is the reporting dates for the 2022-2023 Fall Trimester:

- This year, mid-point grades will be posted October 19th- October 20th.
- Trimester ends December 1, 2022
- Final Grades will be posted around December 6th.

It is important to note that different departments weigh things differently within Infinite Campus. So when you are looking at IC the categories may look something like:

- Participation: (10.00)
- Classwork : (30.00)
- Assessments: (60.00)



In this example, assessments are worth 60% of the grade. Assessments, Tests, and Quizzes are often weighed significantly higher than other assignments. Please contact your child's teacher if a further explanation is needed on the weighing of assessments.

We want students to take pride in their grades. More importantly, we want students to take pride in their learning and the growth they make through the process. You can assist your child by:

- Checking in with your child about how they are doing in class
- Using IC as a means of communication between home and school
- Helping your child stay current with assignments and not falling behind
- Encouraging your child to hand work in a timely manner
- Focusing on the learning and the growth, not only the grade

The curriculum coordinator, Ashley Marinaro, and I plan to continue the dialogue with families about grading practices. Throughout the year, we will share a variety of resources for you to learn more on how you can help your child focus on their learning. **In addition, on Wednesday, November 2, 2022 there will be a presentation for families to learn more about the curriculum, our grading practices and our shift toward deeper understandings.** More information will follow. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to ask or email us. This is a growing process for all of us and we thank you for your consistent support and understanding.

Sincerely,
Principal Raeanne Reynolds
Curriculum Coordinator Ashley Marinaro