

RIDGE SCHOOL
RIDGEWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
325 WEST RIDGEWOOD AVENUE
RIDGEWOOD, NJ 07450
201-670-2740

December 15, 2015

Dear Parents,

Report cards are accessible through Skyward today, reporting progress in the first marking period for students in Grades 1-5. (Directions for accessing the report card are included at the end of this letter.)

All six elementary schools in Ridgewood use the same standards-based report card, which means that it is based on a combination of our district's curriculum expectations and the Common Core Standards. Students are graded against a standard, not each other. **The language we use is meant to convey how your child is doing compared to the grade level standard for that skill at that time of year.** (4 = Exceeds standards, 3 = Achieves standards, 2 = Sometimes meets standards, 1 = Performs below standards) If your child achieves a "3" in a particular area the first marking period and achieves a "3" again the next marking period, it does not mean that growth didn't occur. It means that as the goals and skills change, your child continues to achieve the standard and has demonstrated growth at the expected pace.

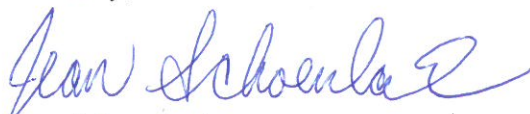
Some parents question whether or not our 4-point grading scale aligns to a traditional A, B, C, D grading scale. It does not. Teachers ultimately would like students to achieve 3's, demonstrating that they are meeting the grade level standards. Of course, that won't be true for all children in every subject/skill. Some children aren't developmentally ready in every skill and therefore would receive a 2 while others may demonstrate easy mastery of a skill and seek opportunities to go beyond, leading to a 4. There may also be skills that are far beyond a child's ability or readiness at this time for which he/she would receive a 1.

Elementary school is an impressionable time in a child's life; therefore, we are not trying to create "4" students or "A" students. We are interested in challenging children to develop and practice excellent work and study habits that will serve them for the rest of their lives. We strive to help each child reach his/her potential. We'd like children to know the satisfaction of working hard and doing their best, as opposed to looking for a grade. We are confident that a standards-based report card allows for our philosophy while also giving you a realistic view of how your child is performing throughout each school year.

The report card is just one component of our grade reporting system. Teachers communicate with parents in many other ways (e.g. phone calls, email, conferences, homework, etc.) Should you have any questions about your child's report card, of course you may contact your child's teacher.

Thank you for your continued support of our school and your child's learning.

Sincerely,



Jean Schoenlank
Principal

Directions for accessing your child's report card on Skyward

The instructions for accessing the report cards in Family Access are slightly different from last year.

Report cards for children in Grades 1-5 will be available for you to view through the **Skyward Family Access** portal beginning **today at 4:00pm**.

To access the portal, go to the District website.

1. Login to Skyward Family Access. The link can be found on the District Website under Parents.
2. Once you are logged in*, select the Portfolio tab on the left side of the screen.
3. Links to Report Cards in PDF format (Adobe Acrobat Reader recommended) are now displayed for all children in your family on one screen.
4. Report cards can be viewed online or printed.
5. If you are unsure of your username or password, you can retrieve it by clicking on Forgot your Login/Password.