

Appleton West High School



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**Mark McQuade, Principal
Todd Kadolph, Associate Principal
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Jim McClowry, Associate Principal - Activities**

Dear Parent/Guardian:

As the Appleton Area School District (AASD) continues to improve teaching and learning for all students, we know that parents, guardians, and families are our most valuable partners. Communicating student progress with families is critical to these partnerships.

For the past several years, AASD has studied methods of grading that accurately reflect and report student learning. This work has resulted in a standards-based approach that we call Grading for Learning. Ultimately, we believe this will assist our teachers to authentically and accurately communicate student achievement on the identified course standards.

Learning/work habits play an important role in a student's success and are also an important factor in your student's preparation for college and careers. Our students will require many skills to be college and career ready, including academic knowledge, technical expertise, and a set of general, cross-cutting abilities called employability skills, which will be referred to as *Career and Life Skills* in the AASD Grading for Learning framework. The development of Career and Life Skills does not occur in one or two classes, but grows over the course of a student's educational career.

In the 2018-19 school year, all students in all courses grades 7-12 will be assessed not only on their academic progress this year, but also on their Career and Life Skills. Teachers will be communicating with you using a separate mark indicating your student's Career and Life Skills in each course. This feedback, while not factored into the student's grade point average, will indicate areas of strength and opportunities for growth and provide parents with additional information on the student.

In grades 9-12, you will see a mark for each course at the mid-quarter progress reporting periods and at the end of each semester in the following three categories: **Acts Responsibly and Respectfully; Communicates Effectively and Works Collaboratively; Thinks Critically and Creatively**. A link to the complete rubric is provided here: [High School Career and Life Skills rubric](#)

We believe this additional information will be one more tool for us to help every child achieve optimal success as we partner with you in your student's education.

More information about our district Grading for Learning and/or Classroom to Career can be found on our district website: [AASD Classroom to Career](#) and [AASD Grading for Learning](#). If you have questions regarding your child's grade or the use of our Career and Life Skills rubric, please call us at 920-832-6219 or join us on October 1st in the Library Media Center for our Parent Advisory Meeting at 6:30pm.

We look forward to our continued collaboration in the success of your child.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark McQuade', written in a cursive style.

Mark McQuade