

Amherst Middle School

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Dear Families,

We are excited to share with you your student's Quarter 1 progress report. You are receiving progress reports for Math, Science, English Language Arts, Social Studies, and World Language. Due to the format and scheduling of our Integrated Arts program, you will receive only those reports for year long classes and classes that have finished at this time. For Integrated arts classes that are still underway, those reports will be sent home during the next reporting period. Teachers will also be reaching out to families regarding any concerns they may have in the interim.

This report shows your student's current level of mastery in each of the course competencies (ex. Reading: Literature or Writing). In this report, all of the standards within a competency (ex. Reading: Literature or Writing) are averaged together to produce an overall score for that competency. We encourage you to review this report with your student and also ask them to log into Empower Learning (empower.sau39.org) and share their progress. Your student can show you the Target Browser, which allows you to see all of the standards and work to date. By clicking on any tile in the Target Browser with a score, you can also view the work students have submitted to demonstrate their understanding of that particular standard. Your student can also show you where they can click to generate a PDF progress report at anytime. The report generated is a level deeper than the paper progress report you are receiving and shows students' current progress on each standard that builds into the competency. We truly believe that the online portal can be a catalyst for healthy powerful conversations between you, your student, and the school. We are working to help students understand how best to use this information to set personal goals and challenge themselves in both their academics and work study practices. Parents will be receiving their own credentials and online access across SAU39 in mid-January.

In the beginning of the school year, there is limited work in each student's portfolio on which to base their scores. As the year progresses and students continue to work towards mastery and beyond, a clearer picture of each student emerges. Each report you receive this year will add more standards and evidence as students progress through the curriculum. All student work is scored against SAU39-wide scoring guides (rubrics). Scores will continue to roll through the year and will be finalized at the end of the school year. This allows students to continue to add evidence to their portfolio for each standard.

If you would like to better understand the curriculum, standards, and units of instruction we invite you to review our School Board approved curriculum documents found on the District homepage (<https://www.sau39.org/domain/23>). If you would like more information about our mastery learning system please visit The Grading and Reporting section on the AMS homepage: <https://www.sau39.org/domain/554> Our goal in all this work, is to better support each student to grow while increasing our communication to create stronger partnerships with families. We look forward to continued partnership and communication over the course of the school year so that we can help support and challenge each child to realize and reach for their full potential!

Regards,

Dr. Bethany Bernasconi