Dear Parents and Guardians of Grade 9 Students,

We first want to thank you for the impressive turn-out at parent conferences. Teachers reported that it was very helpful to meet with you to gain your perspective on how best to support your child in their learning. We are happy to have this class of ninth graders as part of our Souhegan community.

We are now at the mid-point of Semester One. You should expect your child to bring home their printed mid-semester progress reports on Friday, November 15th. Reports will be distributed during Advisory. This progress report, generated from the Empower Learning software, is a competency report and in a similar format to what your child received last year at AMS. This format is consistent with reports used across the SAU and is designed to communicate more information to parents about their child as a learner. Please contact Student Services at 673-9940 option 2 beginning on Monday, November 18th, if you do not receive your child’s report and need an additional copy.

In the beginning of the school year, student work is foundational and therefore these mid-semester scores represent a beginning level of proficiency. As the year progresses, students will have more opportunities to show higher levels of mastery. As a result, the end of year competency scores will represent the culmination of the student’s work. If you have questions about your child’s work or how to interpret their competency scores, please contact the teacher directly.

At the end of a course, an overall course score will be calculated. We understand that students and parents will want to know how these scores will be interpreted on a transcript. For example, a 3.0 on our competency report represents significant achievement of the standard; however, colleges may view a 3.0 as “B” level work. During this transition, we will be printing mid-year course scores at the end of semester 1 showing progress to date along with information on how that course score will appear on a transcript and translate into a GPA scale familiar to colleges.

In order to encourage students to take an active role in monitoring their own progress, we plan to introduce 9th grade students to the online Empower Learning portal next month during team time. We will be introducing ninth grade parents to the Empower parent portal in mid-January.

Sincerely,

SHS Leadership Team