



Dear Parents:

In August we sent home an explanation of Standards-Based Grading that we are implementing at Horse Heaven Hills this year. That letter is posted at [www.ksd.org/hhh](http://www.ksd.org/hhh). As we worked with the district IT department to develop a new report card, some things were modified. Here is an update to clarify:

- Our goal is to accurately communicate what students know and are able to do in relationship to the end-of-year grade level standards in each subject. Students show mastery of a learning target when they demonstrate the application of that knowledge over time. Marks on report cards should most closely represent the student's current level of performance.
- Marks will reflect student progress toward specific learning standards. The number of standards reported will vary from student to student depending on their individual classes. However, like subjects at each grade level will report the same standards. Example: 6<sup>th</sup> grade math teachers will teach to and report the same learning standards.
- Teachers will use examples of student work, observations, and various assessments to identify what students know and are able to do.
- For every class, students will also receive marks for four work habits that support learning
- Exploratory classes and lab classes that provide additional learning time will report grades as Satisfactory (S) or Unsatisfactory (U) to reflect progress toward individual goals. Students in these classes will receive grades on work habits as well.
- Parents should view Parent Portal frequently to monitor student progress on daily assignments (see the enclosed example). Call Mrs. Reed at 222-6596 for password information. You are welcome to use our library computers if you don't have access at home.
- HHH Site Council is in the process of determining the criteria for honor roll. Criteria will be published on our school web page.
- Averages, such as GPA, have little meaning in Standards-Based Grading. Our goal is to report as precisely as possible progress toward individual standards. It is not desirable to rank students in relation to each other.
- After passing the end-of-course exam, students taking high school credit classes may apply to have their final marks converted to a letter grade on high school transcripts.
- Teachers look forward to discussing your student's progress during conferences on November 18th, 21st and 22nd. More information about upcoming conferences will be sent home by November 1<sup>st</sup>.

Susan Denslow, Principal