



April 2019

Dear Families,

Wichita Public Schools is committed to helping every student be future ready. One example is improving our grading practices and how we report what students know and can do. We want to share information about our transition to Standards-Referenced grading practices and what these changes mean for your child.

- **Grades** – Standards-Referenced grading focuses on communicating about academic learning throughout the school year. Factors not based on academic learning such as extra credit, bonus points, student behavior, work ethic, and homework performance will no longer be combined with academic learning to help determine grades.
- **Learning standards** – We want to communicate what students know and can do based on a set of learning goals called standards.
- **Grading scale** – Teachers will use a scale ranging from 0 to 4 to communicate students' academic performance based on learning standards. In the 0 to 4 point scale, a 0 represents that, even with help, a student is unable to demonstrate understanding of the learning goal(s) while a 4 represents that a student's knowledge exceeds the learning goal(s). A score of a 3 on the grading scale indicates success and should be celebrated.
- **Progress reports** – Families can expect to receive progress reports that contain information about student academic performance every quarter. Progress reports will also contain information about student behavior and work habits, although these factors will no longer be used to determine grades.

We are preparing to implement these changes to our grading practices in August 2019 in elementary schools. We welcome the opportunity to answer questions about this important transition. Please email info@usd259.net or visit: www.usd259.org/grading. Thank you for your support as we work to make sure every student is future ready.

Sincerely,

Dr. Andi Giesen
Assistant Superintendent
Learning Services