

COLUMBIA MIDDLE SCHOOL

UNDERSTANDING YOUR CHILD'S GRADES

Please use the following information to communicate with teachers and understand the grade information that you receive. Your child may receive any or all of the following grades depending on the classes they are taking at Columbia:

Proficiency Grades: A, P, PP or U

- The majority of students at Columbia receive these scores to indicate their level of understanding related to the State of Colorado Education Standards for each content area (literacy, math, science, social studies, music, art and PE). The standards are based on where a student should be with his/her understandings about the subject for the grade level they are currently attending.
- P is proficient, and indicates the student is performing at grade level for the standards that have been assessed during the current reporting period for that subject. Each subject has standards specific to that content area, targets specific to each standard, and indicators that teachers use to determine how a student is performing.

Letter Grades for High School Classes: A, B, C, D, F

- These are associated with our high school math classes.

Choices Grades: S or U

- These are for classes such as PRIDE and Intervention classes. The S means satisfactory progress, the U means unsatisfactory progress.
- A student in math intervention can earn an “S” and still have a “PP” or “U” for their proficiency grade in the regular math class. This is due to the fact that the regular math class is working on grade level concepts such as linear equations while the math intervention class is building skills such as multiplying fractions and learning long division that were missed in past years.

In addition to these grades, your child will receive a work habits score (1, 2, 3 or 4) for each class. The purpose of this score is to indicate how hard they are working in class and determine if they are eligible for any school activities (sports, dances, etc). Students with a 3 or 4 are regularly working in class, participating in groups and discussions, getting extra help and turning in their work. Basically, they are doing what they need to do to be successful. Students with work habit scores of 1 or 2 are not putting forth the effort to find success and develop a positive work ethic. This score is an integral part of a student's performance and a true indicator of the time and energy they put forward at school and on their homework.

To learn more about grading in Aurora Public Schools please visit:

<http://aurorak12.org/parents/sbg/>

Besides receiving report cards from the school you should have also received your child's growth scores from the state. This information is incredibly important to understand and relates directly to student progress in reading, writing and math. Growth scores cover three basic ranges:

- Low Growth: Growth below 40% in any given area.
- Average Growth: Growth between 40% and 65% in any given area.
- High Growth: Growth above 65% in any given area.

Students who have high growth on a yearly basis will move up (example: PP to P) in proficiency or sustain their Advanced status in reading, writing and math. Students with growth between 50% and 64% will maintain the current level of proficiency (example: P stays P). Students with growth below 50% are at risk to lose proficiency (example: P to PP).

To learn more about Colorado State Growth scores please visit: <http://www.schoolview.org/>

Why is this so important? A student with Proficient (P) or higher reading, writing and math skills, with strong work habits (3 or 4), will be successful and ready to enter high school with all the skills and understandings necessary to succeed.

Please contact your teachers directly with any question you may have regarding your child's progress.