



Mountain Brook S C H O O L S

Elementary Grading and Assessment Statement

The upcoming transition to an elearning platform highlights the importance of differentiating between a system for grading and a system for feedback. While grading is an important part of a system for feedback, our transition makes it difficult for a comprehensive grade to adequately reflect student growth over the fourth nine-weeks. For this reason we plan to adopt a pass/fail model as the summative “grade” that is recorded on the final report card for the fourth nine-weeks.

K-3 already uses a standards-based grading model that utilizes a “plus” to indicate mastery of a standard and a “minus” to indicate that a student has not met the standard yet. The format is largely adaptable to a pass/fail mindset. The continued use of such a similar structure won’t dramatically alter the feedback or grading system, so teachers will enter a plus or minus for each standard as usual.

Grades 4-6 will adapt their more traditional grades-based system to a pass/fail system for content covered in the fourth nine-weeks. While a more simplified system will help us navigate the number of variables in our current situation, it is not overly descriptive of a student’s specific progress or growth over this period. That’s why it will be so critical for teachers to provide more direct, consistent feedback on assignments that is more representative of our traditional expectations. Put simply, even though a “pass” will be recorded as the final grade for the fourth nine-weeks, teachers will continue to grade assignments and offer descriptive feedback that reflects a more specific grade (like an A, B, or C) on submitted work and assessments.

Grades K-6 will use a consistent, ongoing system of feedback throughout the grading period, and teachers will protect a week in May to conference with parents and offer an opportunity to discuss student growth and continuing needs moving forward. The combination of efforts lessens the anxiety typically associated with grades during this complicated time while meeting the expectations of our students and community by providing direct feedback for continued growth.

Example 4th-6th Grade Report Card:

	1st 9 weeks	2nd 9 weeks	SEM 1	3rd 9 weeks	4th 9 weeks	SEM 2	Year AVG
Reading	92	94	93	90	P	P	P