



Appleton Area School District

Preparing Our Students for Their Future

Every Child, Every Day

Dear Middle School Parent/Guardian:

As the Appleton Area School District (AASD) continues to improve teaching and learning for all students, we know that parents, guardians, and families are our most valuable partners. Communicating student progress with families is critical to these partnerships.

Learning/work habits play an important role in a student's success. In the AASD we refer to those habits as *Career and Life Skills*. Career and Life Skills are also an important factor in your student's preparation for college and careers. Communicating with you using a separate mark indicating your student's Career and Life Skills in each course shows the importance of these skills. We will report progress in **Career and Life Skills** using the following three categories: **Social and Cross-cultural; Productivity and Accountability; Initiative and Self-direction.**

During the 2016-2017 school year we conducted Career and Life Skills Pilot by having selected courses assess those skills and report out to parents and students at the end of each semester. A new reporting section was added in our student information system within the Parent Portal. The purpose of the Career and Life Skills pilot process is to gather input and feedback from parents, students and staff prior to using this framework in all middle level courses.

During the 2017-2018 school year all middle level students will be assessed in those Career and Life Skills and separate numerical mark will be given along with the letter grade for each course at the end of each semester.

Enclosed with this letter is the assessment rubric. A copy of the Career and Life Skills Parent Guide and more information regarding the AASD's focus on Grading for Learning can be found at: http://www.aasd.k12.wi.us/parents/grading_for_learning_in_the_aasd