

Communicating Student Learning

Dear Parents/Guardians:

You are invited to our Parent Information Night on November 1st at BME from 6:00 – 7:00 pm to learn more about FreshGrade. Childminding will be available for this one-hour session.

Here is a 'snippet' of what we will be discussing at our session.

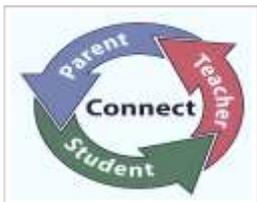
Why are many of our BME teachers using FreshGrade as a way to communicate student learning?
We recognize the value in providing students and parents with effective, timely, ongoing, specific, and descriptive feedback to illustrate student growth and learning. Our redesigned curriculum has changed, and so too have the ways we communicate student learning. An electronic portfolio allows us to report more about the personalization of the learning journey (rather than the standardization). The FreshGrade posts capture students' learning over time, as well as changes and growth in their ability to communicate, think, and build their capacities as learners.

Parent involvement is critical. Your feedback has a profound impact on your child's motivation and well-being; therefore, what should you write/comment when you see your child's work, sample, artifact posted on FreshGrade?

We know that to reach learning goals/targets, students need more than "Great job!" or an



Some Examples:



i) Compliments: Description of success

- Your brain was focused when you were adding those numbers!
- You put in amazing speed and effort in your race to the goal!
- You worked hard and pronounced every word on the page perfectly!
- You put a lot of thought and effort into your ideas!

ii) Questions/suggestions: Description of next steps

- How do you know the answer is correct? What strategy can you use?
- Can you retell the story in your own words? If not, what is your next step?
- Have you thought about the ending? Is the story finished?
- What is the next challenge for you to take on in your learning?

"Feedback in the form of words can be very motivational. After a score of 7 out of 10 has been put on a small assignment, there is not much more that can be said. If, however, teachers/parents indicate one or two strengths (and provide one or two questions or suggestions to stretch a child's learning), they have the basis for discussions with individual students to help them improve their work. The basic principle at work here is that words open up communication, whereas numbers close it down – prematurely at that" (Ken O'Connor, How to Grade for Learning, p. 116).

**More questions about FreshGrade? Please bring them to our Parent Information Night.
Hope to see you there!**