



June 17, 2016

Hi Everyone,

I wanted to take a moment and thank you for your participation in our K-8 Faculty Survey on Grading Terms. 84% of our staff completed the survey. Below you will find a summary of our K-8 staff results (raw data is always available upon request). School Committee has asked for this information to be shared at the next School Committee meeting for discussion.

Based on the district-wide survey:

- 97% believe the change from quarters (4 terms) to trimesters (3 terms) has been beneficial for students.
- 98% feel the change to trimesters has afforded them more time to focus on instruction.
- 95% believe a trimester reporting schedule offered ample opportunities for parent communication.

Additionally, faculty was asked for the top reasons on why they believe trimesters or quarters better support instruction. The following is an overall summary of responses:

Trimesters better support instruction:

- More opportunity/time for instruction
- Less time assessing
- More reliable/accurate assessment scores
- Trimesters is a more natural process that allows for growth over time
- Trimester schedule lowers anxiety of students and teachers
- Continuity of instruction
- Trimesters support social and emotional growth, which can be subtle and takes place over long periods of time. It increases the likelihood of seeing measurable gains
- With 4 terms, grades (specifically 1st term) are overinflated

Quarters better support instruction:

- Four quarters gives students more opportunity for a fresh start, complete make up work, improve from the mid-term, and aligns with HHS
- Quarters gives a better picture

The final question on the survey asked teachers what adjustment they would make to our current grading schedule. Below is a summary of the responses we received:

- Making sure conferences line up to report cards
- Change to semester based reporting periods
- Add mid-term progress reports (Grade 4)
- Teacher ability to view in Aspen if a parent looked at the progress report
- Aspen reminder to parents to check student grades

- Examine assessment schedule and reporting period alignment
- Continue having the first parent teacher conference before report cards
- Why does elementary school need a report card at all?
- Additional day added for 3rd trimester conferences
- Report card prep during Tuesday in-service (request Gr. 5)
- Professional development for cross-town grade levels to discuss assessment tools
- Split afternoon and evening conferences to different days
- Specialists grade for each trimester rather than only the final two
- With one less communication point, teachers must ensure they are either updating parents via Aspen or another mode

We want to thank everyone for their feedback. As a leadership team, we will examine all suggestions and opportunities for improvement as we plan both our district-wide calendar and professional development schedule. Based on this data we feel the change has been successful and in the best interest of the students of Hanover. Thank you for your hard work updating all of our curriculum maps and realigning our assessment schedule to match the new reporting periods. Your time and efforts are greatly appreciated!

Debbie