

Introduce Parents to FreshGrade in Two Easy Steps!

Step 1: Parent Announcement

Send out the announcement below to parents. Let them know how you will be using FreshGrade and how they can interact with their child's portfolio.

Remember the idea of a digital portfolio is brand new to parents and they may need a bit of guidance.

Hello Parents and Welcome to FreshGrade!

I am very excited to have your child in my class this year.

Now that you have created your own FreshGrade for parents account, I want to take some time to share with you how you can encourage your child's learning by commenting on their portfolio posts. When thinking about what to say in a comment I would say to have the mindset of a coach #thinkinglikeacoach. Coaching to me means to help a child unlock their potential through encouragement and guidance.

So how can you encourage and guide your child's learning?

I am going to be posting to your child's portfolio some guiding statements that you can use when commenting on your child's portfolio. So I would recommend prior to posting that you take a glance at these statements. You can then use the statements to help when you are commenting on your child's portfolio.

Your interaction with your child's portfolio is so appreciated. If you have any questions please feel free to reach out to me. You can email directly from your FreshGrade app by clicking 'Email Teacher' at the top of your child's portfolio.

Step 2: Parent Note

You can add the note below to your student's portfolios. This note provides guidance to parents when they are looking at the portfolio.

FreshTip: You can create an activity in your Gradebook that is dated for the end of the year add this note and it will always remain at the top of the portfolio.

Dear Parents,

Important points to remember as you and your child interact with their digital portfolios...

1. What does the artifact of learning communicate? What was your child (or their teacher) trying to share by posting this artifact?
2. Portfolios are not about judgements of work. The best conversations are those when we give feedback or asking questions that stretch thinking, that moves learning forward!
3. Who owns the learning? Who selected the evidence of learning? What role did your child play in this process? Is your child able to accurately assess their learning with evidence?
4. Process trumps product. Sometimes the final product of learning does not honour and reflect all the work that came before it. Comment on the product, but don't forget to focus on the process of learning that led up to the actual artifact.

Here is some possible sentence starts to help begin and maintain conversations around what you see in your child's learning portfolio...

1. Why did you choose to post ____?
2. Why do you think your teacher posted ____?
3. I am so proud that you are now able to ____
4. I can see that you tried really hard to ____

5. Look - now you can ____
6. Before you had trouble with ____ but now you can ____
7. I was pleased with how you did this work because ____
8. Can you explain your thinking around this ____?
9. I am impressed with this work because ____
10. Do you think you need some help with ____?