



OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW YORK

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Dear Parents/Guardians:

We serve as partners with you in your child's education and pursuit of academic and spiritual excellence. To achieve this, we are committed to communicating in a specific, clear, and timely manner about your child's progress. As such, attached to this letter is your child's new standards-based developmental summary.

As you will see, this *Kindergarten Developmental Summary* will engage families in a greater understanding of the education of the whole child. It allows us to communicate more clearly about what standards your child has mastered and the areas in which he/she needs more practice and support. The developmental summary will be complemented by portfolios to assess your child, which provides teachers with a built-in system to plan parent/teacher conferences. With the portfolio as the basis for discussion, you and the teacher can review concrete examples of your child's work, rather than try to discuss your child's progress in the abstract.

This quarter, you will notice that your child has received a progress code (or rating) instead of the prior grading system (i.e. the E-S-I-U-NA system). Your child will receive four types of progress codes (4, 3, 2 or 1) across subject standards for each of the academic quarters; these codes reflect the degree to which your child has acquired the skill, behavior, and/or demonstrated the accomplishments required by each of the performance indicators listed in the developmental summary. The progress codes are reflective of year-end expectations and better align with current instruction. The teacher should cover all standards by the end of the school year, and any skills that have not been observed or assessed will not receive a rating. The teacher will maintain a portfolio of your child's work in order to determine your child's progress for each performance indicator.

We are very excited about this new, enhanced tool to communicate your child's academic progress. Please visit our website at buildboldfutures.org, click on the *Elementary* tab and go to *Resources for Parents* on the drop-down menu to find additional resources to understand the developmental summary and standards.

Thank you for all that you do to support your children and our Catholic schools.

Sincerely,

Timothy J. McNiff, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools
Archdiocese of New York