



AJ Smeltzer Junior High School

School Plan for Communicating Student Learning 2025 / 2026

At AJ Smeltzer Junior High School we believe that students are more successful when there is ongoing and effective communication between school and home. Throughout the year, there will be many ways we will communicate with you about your child's progress (e.g., phone calls, progress conferences, report cards, etc.)

Assessments are an important part of the teaching and learning process. A great deal of student assessment happens in classrooms throughout the year. Assessments are designed to help the teacher monitor progress and make decisions about next steps for instruction. Regular attendance greatly supports student success and achievement. It is key that parents/guardians/caregivers and teachers work together to maintain regular communication regarding students' learning, progress, and well-being. Students will be provided with a variety of opportunities and ways to show that they understand what they are learning. Teachers will provide timely feedback to students during and after learning opportunities.

Note: In the event that a student must miss school, teachers will provide students with the materials that were distributed in class during the student's absence.

Student learning will be assessed using:

- Conversations with students
- Observations of learning
- Work that shows their learning

In secondary grades (7 to 12), assessment feedback is given in a variety of ways. This can include, but is not limited to, progress conferences, comments on student work, rubric scores, levels of achievement and percentages in senior high schools.

Levels of Achievement Scale for Grades 7-9

The achievement scale used in Nova Scotia is as follows:

1	1+	2	2+	3	3+	4
Limited		Developing		Competent		In-depth

Our goal is for all students to be at level 3 or above after they have received instruction and opportunities to practice and develop the required skills and concepts for each curriculum outcome.

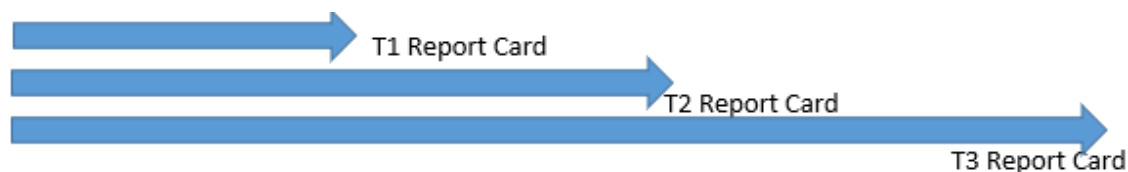
Report Cards and Progress Conferences

In grades 7-9, report cards are sent home three times a year. In grades 10-12, there are two semesters, September to the end of January, and February to the end of June. A mid-term report card and final report card are sent home for each semester. The *learner profile* will have information about your child's work habits, social skills and attendance. The remaining sections will describe your child's level of achievement in each subject. Each subject will also have a comment written by the teacher outlining an area of strength, an

area for improvement and suggestions to continue to support learning at home and/or school. Parents/guardians/caregivers will have an opportunity to discuss their child's progress with the classroom teacher(s) during a scheduled progress conference.

For important dates throughout the year, please see the [2025 / 2026 HRCE calendar](#).

Our [Nova Scotia Student Assessment Policy](#) outlines inclusive and equitable assessment, evaluation and reporting practices, including reporting on *cumulative* evidence that reflects the ongoing nature of student learning.



Grades 7-9 Reporting Periods

Term 1 September - November	Term 2 September - March	Term 3 September - June
Report cards go home between November 24 and December 3, 2025 Progress conference Thursday, December 4, 2025	Report cards go home between March 23 and April 2, 2025 Progress conference Thursday, April 3, 2025	Report cards go home Tuesday June 30, 2025

Achievement of Expected Learning Outcomes in Grades 7-12

At the end of each reporting period, teachers will review the evidence of learning they have gathered and will use this information to report to parents/guardians/caregivers about their child's progress in relation to the learning outcomes. See below for descriptions for each grade range:

90-100%	Demonstrates excellent understanding and application of concepts and skills in relation to the learning outcomes.
80-89%	Demonstrates very good understanding and application of concepts and skills in relation to the learning outcomes.
70-79%	Demonstrates good understanding and application of concepts and skills in relation to the learning outcomes.
60-69%	Demonstrates satisfactory understanding and application of concepts and skills in relation to the learning outcomes.
50-59%	Demonstrates minimal understanding and application of concepts and skills in relation to the learning outcomes.
Below 50%	Has not yet met minimum requirements for the course.

Homework

Homework can provide an opportunity for students to practice and consolidate skills learned in class and/or to prepare students for future instruction. Homework activities *may* include, practicing foundational skills in reading, writing and mathematics, practicing physical skills to promote healthy growth and development, completing educational games to reinforce learned concepts, and watching videos or reading short texts to prepare for classroom discussion.

If your child is having difficulty with assigned homework, please reach out to their teacher so support can be provided. For students in grades 4-12, [The Homework Hub](#) offers free online math tutoring that can be accessed through your child's GNSPES account.

Parent/Guardian/caregiver Questions or Concerns

If you have a question or concern regarding your child's learning, please start by communicating with your child's teacher. They are often in the best position to discuss the matter. If the concern remains unresolved, please contact the principal. If your concern still remains unresolved, you can reach out to HRCE's Parent Navigators, who can provide information about a wide range of support and resources, or connect you with the school's supervisor. Our goal is always to work together to resolve the issue with the best interests of the child in mind. For more information on how to raise a concern, [click here](#).

Teacher Communication

Parents/guardians/caregivers are encouraged to check PowerSchool for updates on their child's academic progress. As well, many teachers have a classroom website or a Google Classroom where information and updates are shared regularly. Teachers may also communicate with parents/guardians/caregivers directly through phone calls or emails. Teachers must also provide their own communication plan to students and parents/guardians at the beginning of the school year/semester. Please review the communication plan sent home from the teacher(s) and if you have any questions reach out to the teacher for more information.

Phone Calls and Messages

Our school office is open each day between 8:10 am and 3:00 pm. If you call during this time you will likely reach our Administrative Assistant, Kelly Quenneville. If you call outside of these hours, or if the office is busy we may not be able to take your call. Please leave a message and we will return your call as soon as we can. **School Phone Number: (902) 864-6846**

SchoolMessenger

We often use the SchoolMessenger system to notify parents/guardians/caregivers of important information and school events. This system is also used to provide notification of unexpected school closures, and would be used in the event of an emergency. **Please ensure we have your correct contact information.**

Parent Portal

The Student/Parent Portal is an online portal that provides information about student progress. Reach out to your child's teacher for more information on how to access.

School Website

Our school website <https://ajs.hrce.ca/> is updated regularly. On this site you can find the most up to date school calendar and any communication that has been sent home.

Student Planning Team

Sometimes it is necessary to have a meeting to develop a collaborative learning plan for a student. These meetings will include parents/guardians/caregivers and members of the student's school team.

School Advisory Council

Our school has an active School Advisory Council (SAC) that meets regularly. The School Advisory Council provides recommendations on a variety of issues within the school to support student learning. For more information, please contact the school at 902-864-6846