



## **FAQs About Feedback Based Assessment at Castlebrooke**

The following questions and answers are designed to help any stakeholder at Castlebrooke Secondary School who has questions around Feedback Based Assessment (FBA).

### **Q: What are the benefits of using FBA for students?**

A: There are a number of benefits including reducing stress on students, promoting a positive Learning Culture in the school (in connection with our [Empowering Modern Learners Vision Document](#)) and FBA moves the focus away from grades and toward valuing learning. There are a number of articles that can be accessed [here](#) to find out more on the research behind FBA.

### **Q: Will FBA help my child do better?**

A: Yes. Students receive specific and targeted feedback in order to improve. The focus is on knowledge and skill development to be prepared for secondary school and any post secondary destination. Here is a quote from [this research paper](#) with regards to achievement and feedback:

*“... the group that received comments specifically tailored to students’ performance showed a significant increase in scores (by almost 30%) on a task. The group that received only grades showed a significant decline in scores, as did the group that received both grades and comments.”*

[This video](#) highlights a key distinction. When people are extrinsically motivated to complete rote tasks they perform better. However, in any task that requires higher order thinking (which is what our curriculum rightfully demands of our students), extrinsic motivation has the opposite effect and actually pushes students towards not meeting higher expectations.

### **Q: Will FBA result in a fair grade?**

A: Yes. Students and teachers work together to look at evidence of learning and determine a final grade that is fair and reflects a student’s learning and achievement.

### **Q: How will my child know how they are doing in the class if they are only given feedback?**

A: Learning Maps, Overarching Learning Goals, Success Criteria, informal and formal conferences

**Q: What kind of feedback will be given?**

A: Descriptive Feedback highlighting areas of strength and areas to work on. Suggestions for improvement will connect the student's work to the criterion-referenced list related to the Ontario curriculum expectations. They will not see anything ambiguous like "keep up the good work" or "try again next time."

**Q: Will my child's mark be significantly different than other students' marks in other sections of the same course?**

A: No. Already piloted and found not to be significantly different.

**Q: What will appear on my child's report card?**

A: For grade 9 and 10 courses students can receive an I, for insufficient evidence, at midterm and a numerical grade at the end of the semester.

Comments about how improvements can be made to increase success.

**Q: How will I, as a parent/guardian, know how my child is doing in their course?**

A: Online tools (parental access to online learning environment), conversations with teacher and/or their own child. Students have access to their Learning Map, Overarching Learning Goals, Success Criteria and should be able to provide work and feedback (peer, self + teacher assessment) to show their parent/guardian how they are doing.

**Q: What if I or my child, do not agree with a mark? What do I need to do?**

A: Ask child to provide evidence of the mark that they feel they deserve in relation to Learning Map, Overarching Learning Goal and Success Criteria. This meeting doesn't have to occur immediately → this will give the teacher + student time to prepare for the conference conversation. Have evidence based conversation with teacher.

**Q: How can I support my child with their learning beyond the classroom?**

A: Use online tools to ensure assignments are being completed in a timely fashion. Speak to teacher.

**Q: Are other schools doing FBA?**

A: Mayfield Secondary School is also implementing Feedback Based Assessment for their grade 9 & 10 courses, and Whaley's Corner Public School is piloting it as well. Glebe Collegiate Institute in Ottawa, Ontario has been using FBA for years with success.