



Parental/Student Guidance on *GradeSpeed* Program Usage

For the 2008-2009 School Year, DoDEA has implemented *GradeSpeed* in all 4th - 12th grade classrooms worldwide. *GradeSpeed* is a web-based program that enables parents to log-in to view grade and attendance data for their student(s). *GradeSpeed* will be the only authorized and supported grade book used by DoDEA employees in Grades 4-12.

All teachers have secure access to *GradeSpeed* through the use of an Internet web browser. Teachers use the grade book portion of *GradeSpeed* to enter assignments, grades, and to maintain grade calculations. Teachers are also able to email progress reports to parents through *GradeSpeed*.

GradeSpeed provides secure parent access via the Parent Portal. Parents must register at: <http://dodea.gradespeed.net> to establish a personal *GradeSpeed* access account. After their account has been established, parents will be able to login to view grade and attendance data only for their student. They will also be able to view school announcements and calendar events. There is a note feature available in *GradeSpeed* that parents can use to directly contact their student's teachers.

Since *GradeSpeed* is web-based, the program can be accessed from anywhere. Parents who are deployed will be able to stay informed and involved in their child's academic life regardless of location.

GradeSpeed makes communication between parents and teachers easier, more effective and timelier. DoDEA's mission is continuous improvement toward academic success for all students. When parents have timely information about student progress and are involved in the education of their student, the entire learning environment is improved. *GradeSpeed* enhances that all-important connection between their home and the school.

Parents, remember the following:

- *GradeSpeed* is not intended to replace face-to-face communication between parents and teachers in meetings and parent conferences.
- A teacher's primary job is to teach! While communication with parents enhances the educational experience, parents must be reasonable about expectations on the posting of grades and responsiveness.
- Be patient when waiting for an email response.
- While students may have concerns about how much information parents will have, the truth is children with parents who are involved in their education have a much greater chance to be successful.
- Always keep your email address current.

For more information, go to: http://www.dodea.edu/back_to_school/gradeSpeed.cfm or contact your local principal.