



## Upper School Update

Susan Zalac, Upper School Director

[szalac@athensacademy.org](mailto:szalac@athensacademy.org)

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This week, the Upper School students (and parents) have had access to the grades earned for every assignment in their classes via SpartanNet. Gradebooks will be open through midnight on Friday, September 23.

If you were to research whether or not it's beneficial for schools to offer open gradebooks to their families, you would find that, as with most things, pros and cons exist. We prefer our model as it balances both philosophies: students and parents may periodically view the gradebooks and see patterns and trends in homework completion and other assessments and assignments, yet the gradebooks are not left open for the entire semester. We encourage students (and parents) to talk to their teachers about their assignments and grades and receive feedback about their learning. With continuous access to the gradebooks, this communication is less likely to happen. We encourage students to be good communicators and to learn to talk to adults and advocate when necessary. Through office hours and conversations with their teachers, the students take the lead in their learning.

For your information and planning, the Progress Report (PR), shared at the midpoint of semester one, will be available on October 27; it will include a class note and an individual comment for each academic course. The gradebooks for the classes will also be available from October 24-28, so you may view the PR information along with the assignments and grades; all of this will provide a complete picture of your child's progress. By the midterm, you may notice that some averages that seemed inflated or deflated when the gradebooks were shared this week have stabilized, as several assignments will be in the gradebook at the midpoint, and the averages should be more reflective of each student's body of work.

From November 28-December 2, we will offer the third and final opportunity to view the gradebooks for Semester One. But remember that at any time, your child (and you) may reach out to the teachers to discuss assignments, assessments, and grades.

Semester One will conclude before Winter Break (December 16), and the report card for Semester One will be available on January 6.