

Weekly Status Update (RYG)

What it IS:

weekly email sent to students and parents/guardians with a color-coded status update on engagement and work completion *in the past week*

What is it NOT:

a measure of Gateway readiness, skill development, or long-term growth



Minimal engagement and/or work completion in the previous week

Work and/or engagement was inconsistent in the previous week

Consistently engaged in class and completed all or most of the assigned work

WHY we are sending it:

to provide students, advisors, and families with an informal, easy-to-understand weekly snapshot about a student's engagement with the major tasks in the *past week's* class

What you should DO with it:

use it to reflect on (and/or celebrate) your participation and work completion in the prior week and make changes, as needed, in your habits going forward; talk with your teachers or advisors if you are not sure what you should be doing or doing differently

Dear Parker Students,

Engagement is a critical part of the learning process for any student, anywhere. When Parker says that it seeks to “know students well” and to create classrooms where “students are workers,” one of the things we are referring to is figuring out how to help each of you engage deeply and well in your own learning process. What’s tricky is that what engagement means and looks like varies widely from student to student, so engagement is actually one of the most elusive elements of student learning. Especially as we start our year together remotely, Parker wants to have a really clear system by which your teachers share with you the level of engagement we think we see, based on the evidence we have, in order to help you take as much ownership of your own educational journey as possible! Starting the week of October 5, we will be sending a Weekly Status Update email to students and their parents/guardians that provides a quick summary of student engagement and work completion each week.

The purpose of the Weekly Status Update email (which people are likely to wind up calling “RYG” since we will use the stoplight colors [Red ● Yellow ● Green ●] as short-hand to describe your engagement over the prior week) is to provide students, advisors, and families with an informal, easy-to-understand weekly snapshot about student engagement with the major tasks in the *past week’s* class. It is always an indication of just one week’s worth of engagement. We hope you will use the information in the RYG as a way to reflect and move forward – not spend a lot of time looking back. Every week is a new week, with a new set of engagement choices available to you. Many times, we hope this Weekly Status Update will serve as an affirmation to you that you are on track and doing what you are supposed to be doing! Other times, it might help you realize that your teachers think you could be making different choices about engaging effectively with your learning. When needed, we hope that this weekly email will be a conversation starter if your understanding of your engagement is different from what your teachers are seeing evidence of in class and in your work.

Here’s the “key” for what each color designation means.



Red	Minimal engagement and/or work completion in the previous week
Yellow	Work and/or engagement was inconsistent in the previous week
Green	Consistently engaged in class and completed all or most of the assigned work

It is important that you understand that the RYG is **NOT** an update on Gateway progress or skill progression. The RYG is **NOT** a report on long-term progress nor an assessment of portfolio skills. Thus, these quick, weekly checks are not revisable—students can improve their engagement moving forward, and they can track their long-term habits with their advisors by looking at the trend in their RYGs over time. *To be clear, while long-term progress toward a gateway or graduation is certainly impacted by a student’s weekly habits and engagement, the RYG check is **NOT** intended to communicate gateway status, long-term academic progress, or skill development.* That information is available in other places, like your project rubrics (which you and your parents/guardians can see in OneNote) and your quarterly narratives (“Progress Reports”) which provide in-depth reporting on skills and information about gateway readiness.

The RYG is meant to help you own your education and take charge of your choices about engagement with learning in each of your classes. You and your advisor(s) will have opportunities to check in about how you are doing overall, and your teachers always want to hear directly from you if their sense of your engagement feels different from your own sense of your engagement. Please reach out to them if you have questions or want help thinking about how to make positive choices.

Here’s to a great fall, full of engagement and learning!