

Parental Feedback in the BrightSpace Grade Book? Yes, indeed!

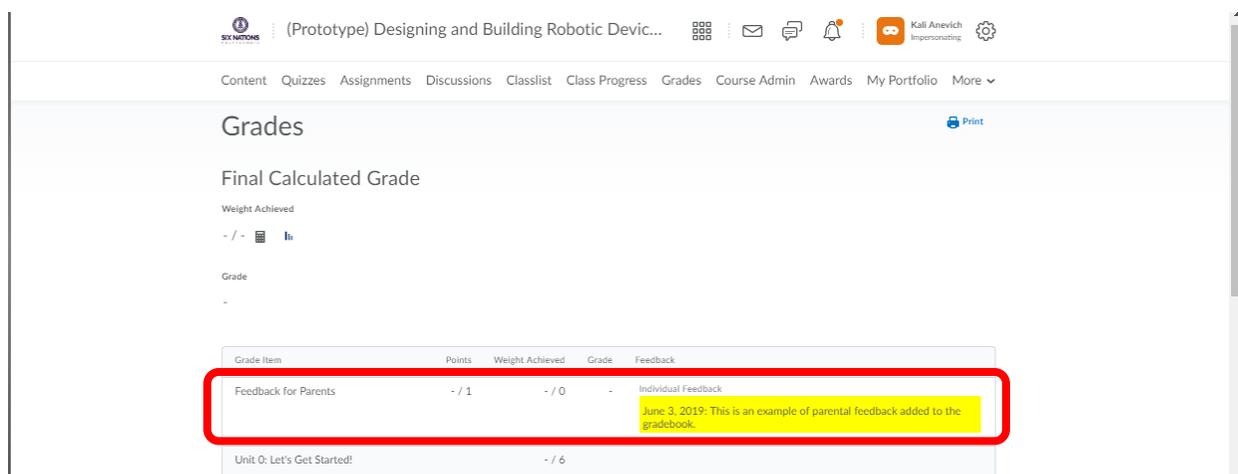
by

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I wrestle with communicating with parents *and* keeping track of these communications *in one place*. So, why not go to the place where parent often go – *their child's grade book*?

This is easier than it sounds!

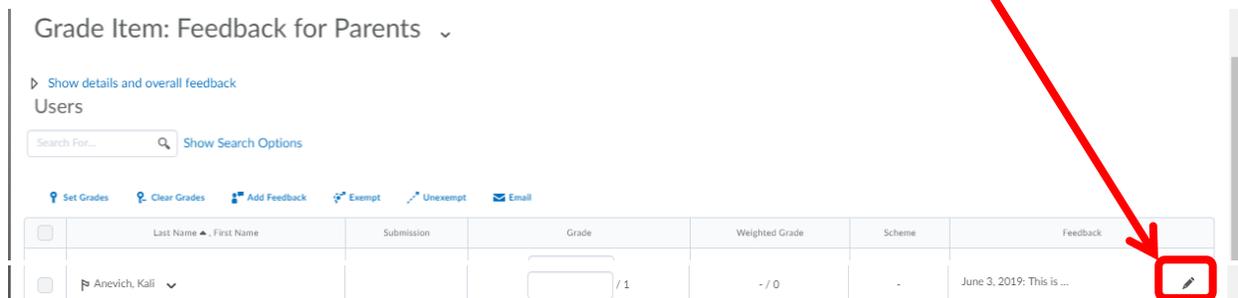
Add an entry to the grade book. Give it a meaningful name (e.g., *Feedback for Parents*). Sort the gradebook entries so that the *Feedback for Parents* grade item appears first in the grade book.



The screenshot shows the BrightSpace interface for a course titled "(Prototype) Designing and Building Robotic Devic...". The "Grades" section is active, displaying a "Final Calculated Grade" summary and a table of grade items. A red rectangular box highlights the "Feedback for Parents" entry in the table. The table has columns for "Grade Item", "Points", "Weight Achieved", "Grade", and "Feedback".

Grade Item	Points	Weight Achieved	Grade	Feedback
Feedback for Parents	- / 1	- / 0	-	Individual Feedback June 3, 2019: This is an example of parental feedback added to the gradebook.
Unit 0: Let's Get Started!		- / 6		

In the gradebook, select the *Feedback for Parents* grade item then click the pencil to add feedback.



The screenshot shows the "Grade Item: Feedback for Parents" page. It includes a search bar for users and a table of student grades. A red arrow points from the text above to a pencil icon in the bottom right corner of the table, which is used to edit or add feedback for a specific student.

	Last Name ▲, First Name	Submission	Grade	Weighted Grade	Scheme	Feedback
<input type="checkbox"/>	Anevich, Kali ▼		<input type="text"/> / 1	- / 0	-	June 3, 2019: This is ...

Use a table and set the background colour to yellow to make the *Feedback for Parents* stand out.

The resulting HTML code is shown here.

Prefix each entry with a date – I prefer the unambiguous APA date format – so that the chronology of multiple entries is clear.

This is what the student (or the student's parents/guardian) sees in the BrightSpace grade book:

Tip: Consider creating a welcome message initially (e.g., *This is a place where the teacher will be sharing feedback with parents. Please check often! Thank you!*). You can then copy this quickly and easily to each student so that each has a feedback block ready to use!

Whenever you need to add parental feedback, edit the *Feedback for Parents* grade item and add to it.

Your feedback is very welcome!

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