

Dear Parent or Guardian,

The American Fork High School Math Department is implementing Standards Based Grading starting 2019-2020 school year for all core math classes. While some math courses have already been using this system, we believe it will be beneficial for students and parents to use a consistent system throughout the core classes. We hope this letter of explanation will alleviate any concerns you may have about this change.

The purpose of standards-based grading is to communicate how students are performing on a set of clearly defined learning targets called standards. Unlike with traditional grading systems, a standards-based grading system measures a student's mastery of math essential standards by prioritizing the most recent level of understanding, including long-term retention of skills. A student who may have struggled at the beginning of a course, when first encountering new material, may still be able to demonstrate mastery of key content/concepts by the end of a grading period.

Students' final grades are determined primarily by what they know and are able to demonstrate. When a student wants to improve his or her grade, the best way to do this is to study the material, ask questions, and demonstrate their improved understanding of the skills/standards. This will better support student learning, as students will be given multiple opportunities to show their understanding of each standard and may be provided additional time if necessary.

Each unit is broken down into essential standards. Typically each quarter consists of 12-16 essential standards. Students are welcome and encouraged to retake tests and quizzes to show their renewed understanding.

We want to emphasize that students will no longer be assessed by how many points they gain or lose. They are assessed by the demonstrated level of competency on a specific standard. In Skyward, students and parents will see separate standards and evidence of proficiency in each. Scores in Skyward are an indicator of which standards students can learn better to receive their desired grade.

In our standards-based model, students will receive the following scores in Skyward:

- 4—exceeds standard
- 3—meets standard
- 2—approaching standard
- 1—below standard
- 0—no data

Tests, quizzes, and assignments will be weighted thus:

- Tests 70%
- Quizzes 20%
- Assignments 10%

Letter grades will be determined as follows:

- A: 85%-100%
- B: 70%-84.9%
- C: 55%-69.9%
- D: 40%-54.9%
- F: Below 40%

Thank you for your supporting us in this important change. We know your students will benefit from more opportunities to show knowledge and understanding. If you have any concerns or questions, please contact your student's math teacher.

Best wishes,

AFHS Math Department