

## Grading for Learning: A Philosophy for Success

Bay Lane Middle School has begun using standards-based instructional practices throughout our grade levels with a goal to ensure students are proficient in the information they have been taught. In standards-based grading learning targets are established based on the National Core Standards and students are assessed according to these learning targets. Standards-based grading better reflects standards-based instruction and assessment with which our teachers and students work every day.

In standards-based grading a student will not receive a traditional letter grade (A, B, C, D, F) for their work. Rather students will achieve a number (1, 2, 3, 4) to indicate their level of proficiency toward understanding a concept (standard). Note: In this grading model, a “4” does not equate to an “A”, a “3” to a “B”, etc. Rather, the number or score refers to a student’s proficiency level of a specific standard.

Proficiency Levels:

- 1 – Attempting Standards / Incomplete
- 2 – Approaching Standards / Developing
- 3 – Meeting Standards / Proficient
- 4 – Exceeding Standards / Advanced

Standards-based grading is beneficial in several ways:

1. It ensures consistent expectations with-in teaching teams and helps teachers and students focus on established standards in their learning.
2. It provides specific and targeted feedback regarding each student’s proficiency level allowing the teacher to address the specific needs of each student.
3. It provides parents / guardians with valuable information regarding how their child is progressing on each standard.

Basic Grading Guidelines:

- Revisions will be offered when appropriate if a child is able to demonstrate how they will improve.
- Effort will not be included in the student’s standard-based grade
- Extra credit is not available to students as we expect that students complete required work and encourage revisions as necessary.
- We will grade final assessments, final projects, and final publications using the performance rubric.