STANDARDS-BASED GRADING
PARENT NIGHT:
Understanding the What and Why of Bexley’s K-8 Grading System
Welcome

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Standards-Based Grading (SBG) is a set of teaching and reporting practices that communicate how a student is performing against a **predetermined set of expectations**. SBG reports achievement on **each standard separately** instead of combining them like in traditional systems.

What is Standards-Based Grading?
SBG also separates out behaviors such as effort, attendance, participation, timeliness, cooperation, and attitude, in an attempt to give the clearest picture of student learning possible.
“Why would anyone want to change current grading practices?

The answer is quite simple:

Grades are so imprecise that they are almost meaningless.”

~Robert Marzano
WHY CHANGE?

Traditional grading systems:

- Combine academic and non-academic factors
- Average of all grades, regardless of purpose
- Do not motivate
Question #1

What is the purpose of the report card?
The purpose of the report card is to communicate a student’s present level of mastery against predetermined standards.

The main audience is students and parents.
Question #2

How often will report cards be completed?
Reporting Timelines, by level

K-5
- Quarter 1: Parent-Teacher Conference
- Quarter 2-4: Electronic Grade Cards
- Conferences throughout the year as needed

6-8
- Quarter 1-4: Electronic Grade Cards, daily access
- Student led conferences after Quarter 1
- Conferences throughout the year as needed
Question #3

How similar are grades cards from year-to-year?
Grade Card Format, by level

**K-5**
- Standards vary year to year

**6-8**
- Common strands each year, standards vary year-to-year
How many standards will be on the report card?
Standards, by level

K-5
- 4-20 “Promise Standards” per course
- 9 Learning Skills & Work Habits
- Not all standards will be reported each quarter

6-8
- 2-6 academic strands per course
- 1 Learning Skills & Work Habits strand per course
- Not all standards will be reported each quarter
Question #5

What standards will be on the report card?
English Language Arts, Grade 3

- Asks and answers questions to demonstrate understanding of a text.
- Determines the main idea of a text and supporting details.
- Uses text features and search tools.
- Describe the logical connection between sentences and paragraphs
- Compares points and key details from two texts on same topic.
- Decodes multi-syllable words.
- Reads irregularly spelled words.
- Reads on-level text with understanding.

- Writes informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic.
- Conducts short research projects.
- Engages effectively in a range of collaborative discussions.
- Speaks in complete sentences.
- Uses regular and irregular plural nouns.
- Uses regular and irregular verbs.
- Uses conventional spelling for frequent, studied words, and adding suffixes.
- Uses spelling patterns and generalizations in writing.
English, Grades 6–8

- Reading
- Writing
- Language
Question #6

Is progress on standards based on year long or quarter expectations?
Reporting, by level

K-5
- Grades based on end-of-year expectations
- Not all standards will be reported each quarter

6-8
- Grades based on quarterly expectations
- Not all standards will be reported each quarter
Question #7

How are “soft skills” or behavior expectations reported?
Bexley Learning Skills & Work Habits

- Completes and submits quality classwork/homework on time
- Maintains a system of organization
- Takes responsibility for own actions; demonstrates self-control
- Follows directions
- Perseveres when facing challenges
- Demonstrates stamina needed to complete work
- Initiates tasks and maintains appropriate level of independence
- Participates actively and cooperatively in group work
- Listens respectfully and acknowledges the thinking of others
- Uses technology in accordance with school policies (6-8)
- Upholds the academic integrity policy (6-8)
Question #8

What grading level descriptors are used?
Insufficient Evidence: Student has not yet provided enough information for the teacher to determine what the student can do.
Insufficient Evidence (0): Student has not yet provided enough information for the teacher to determine what the student can do.
“Schools use grades because it’s one of those things somebody once decided on and now everybody goes along with it.

I don’t know where it started, but I know where it stops - in the real world.
You don’t see supervisors telling their employees, “Great job, I’m going to give you an A.” Or, “You really screwed up here; that’s a C-.”

No, in the real world, adults get real feedback and indications of where they need improvement.”

~Littky & Grabelle
THANK YOU!

6-8 Website
BexleySchools.org/SBG

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