



Lake Orion Middle Schools

Michigan Exemplary Blue Ribbon Schools

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Dear Parents/Guardians:

As the new school year begins, so do our yearly initiatives. One of the largest initiatives at the middle level is standards based grading. Though we began this around two years ago, we are continuing with complete implementation this school year.

Standards based grading allows for teachers to assess students on individual standards. By assessing standards, grades will look a bit different. We are utilizing a four-point scale.

Proficient	4.0	Consistently demonstrates understanding of standards
Progressing	3.0	Partially demonstrates understanding of standards
Basic	2.0	Minimally demonstrates understanding of standards
Area of Concern	1.0	With assistance, partial success at demonstrating understanding of standards
Insufficient evidence	0.0	Nothing turned in to assess

Students will still receive letter grades on their report card, even though assessments will have the four-point scale. **Reporting has changed to every semester versus every marking period.** Report cards will be sent via secure connection to you through email. For those classes that are 10 weeks long you will need to utilize PowerSchool to see the final grade.

Using a standards based system allows for students to practice the concept a number of times before there is formal assessment. When we run a race we are not automatically expected to get our best time. It takes practice, with our final assessment showing how much we have truly grown and improved. That is how standards based grading works. Students are not expected to know the information at the beginning and so they have to practice and then be assessed at the end. With that, gradebooks will look different. There may be some items that are just collected, some that have been assessed, and some just for practice.

We appreciate your patience and understanding as we implement standards based grading together. Students will have a deeper understanding of themselves as learners and teachers will know students' exact areas of strengths and areas that need work.

Respectfully,

Middle Level Administration

