

# SJHS Grading & Reporting Guidelines

## SJHS Mission

The fundamental purpose of Sheridan Junior High School is to ensure that ALL students LEARN.

## Purpose of Grades

Grades should be an accurate reflection of each student's learning in all content areas. They communicate achievement status to students, parents, and others.

## Secondary purposes of grading include the following:

- Providing feedback to students for self-assessment and growth
- Encouraging student progress and self-monitoring of learning



## Report Cards

SJHS report cards will include the following:

- A score for each standard in every class
- Data for tardies and absences

## Grading Guidelines

- Entries in the grade book that count towards the final grade will be limited to standards. Behaviors will not be included in their grades.
- Extra credit will not be given at any time.
- Students will be allowed multiple opportunities to demonstrate their understanding of the standards. Retakes and revisions will be allowed.
- Students will be provided multiple opportunities to practice standards independently through homework or other class work. Practice assignments and activities will be consistent with classroom standards for the purpose of providing feedback. Practice assignments, including homework, will not be included as part of a final grade.

## What will each of the numbers in the 4 Point Scale represent?\*

4	Student <b>exceeds</b> understanding of the standard.
3	Student has demonstrated <b>proficiency</b> of the standard.
2	Student has <b>simple</b> understanding of the standard.
1	With some <b>help</b> , student can exhibit <b>some</b> understanding of the standard.
0	Even with help, no understanding

\*\* If you have questions about a specific class and/or would like to see example of a 4 Point Scale, please contact your child's teachers.

# Frequently Asked Questions

## **How will standards-based grading affect my child in high school?**

For over five years, SJHS students have experienced standards-referenced grading in our classrooms and have been overwhelmingly successful at Sheridan High School. Our grading practices are not changing, just the report card sent home to parents. Students will still learn the same rigorous curriculum and still be evaluated on their learning. They will still move into 9th grade with the same base of knowledge and skills we have expected as students finish 8th grade. Standards-referenced grading does not lower academic standards; it simply communicates student learning more clearly to parents.

## **How will I know if my child needs help?**

Receiving a score of 1 or 2 on a report card can be a sign that a student is in need of extra support in the areas where they are receiving these scores.

## **How will Honor Roll be determined?**

In the SJHS Student Handbook, it states that honor roll will be determined by the following:

- Gold Honor Roll includes students who have earned all 3.5s and 4s.
- Silver Honor Roll includes students who have earned earned 3s, 3.5s, and 4s.

## **How will a standards-referenced report card impact determining athletic eligibility?**

The athletic director will determine eligibility based on reports from teachers indicating students who are not performing to expectations (1 scores) in their academic classes and/or those who have missing assignments.

## **How will this affect Spanish and Algebra classes for Hathaway?**

Spanish and Algebra taken during 8th grade will show on the student's high school transcripts for Hathaway requirements. While these courses will count toward the Hathaway Success Curriculum requirements, they do not calculate towards high school GPA, Hathaway GPA, or high school credit.

## **Is it possible to achieve a grade of 4?**

Yes it is. However, a score of 4 indicates performance that is consistently above what is expected for proficiency at that point in the school year. Level 4 work would indicate a much deeper understanding of a standard, the ability to apply that knowledge, make connections and extend learning beyond the targeted goal.

## **Where else in the area is standards-referenced grading being implemented?**

It is important to note that our elementary schools have been utilizing a four point grading system for several years, so it will not be new to the majority of our families, as well as some school districts in the area.

## **Is it possible to earn a 3 or 4 during first semester?**

Yes it is. Students may demonstrate mastery of a standard at any point in the year. With some standards that span the entire school year, students will likely show growth in their mastery from fall to spring.

## **If my child was an "A student" in the past, what scores should we expect on the report card?**

SJHS teachers have been using standards-based scoring in their classrooms for years. In the past, we converted a score of 3 to 89%, 3.5 to 95%, and 4 to 100%. If your child was earning A grades in past years at SJHS, it stands to reason that you should expect to see scores ranging from 3 to 4 moving forward. This is of course dependent on student engagement, effort, and dedication to learning.

## **What if I have questions about my child's scores or want to learn more about standards-based grading?**

Please contact your child's teacher. If after meeting with the teacher, you still have questions, then contact an administrator.