

**McLean County Unit District No. 5**  
**1809 West Hovey Avenue**  
**Normal, Illinois 61761-4339**



August 30, 2019

Dear Parent(s),

Below are some important reminders related to Standards Based Grading for the 2019 - 2020 school year at the elementary level.

**Standards Based Grading**

Standards Based Grading provides parents, students and teachers with more specific information than a traditional reporting system does. In the traditional system, grades from all types of measures assessing many different standards and elements are averaged together to obtain one score for a subject area. In a standards-based grading system, teachers are able to communicate to students and parents specific progress on individual standards/targets. This information allows parents, teachers and students themselves to target areas for improvement and establish goals for their learning.

- Ratings will reflect what students know and can do. Behavioral factors will be reported separately under the course Learner Characteristics.
- Ratings will provide specific information about where students are currently in their learning. They will not be an average of performance over time.
- Students will know exactly what they are being assessed on and how they can show what they know and can do.
- Students will continue to have opportunities to show that they have mastered a skill or content. The learning does not stop after an assessment.
- Much of the grading will be authentic- meaning that teachers will assess students as they are engaged in activities and discussions.
- This means that you will not see as many "graded" papers coming home.

**The Scale**

The parent companion documents provide specific rubrics to define the levels for each target. We use a 4 point rubric/scale which is summarized below:

1 - The student is just not ready for the skill. They are not showing any evidence of understanding or progress towards mastery.

2- This is a broad range that includes students just beginning to understand to students who almost have the skill.

3- The student is able to do the skill identified or demonstrate knowledge of the content as identified. A 3 indicates your child has mastered a grade level target. Celebrate the 3's!

4- Deeper, more complex knowledge or application often beyond grade level expectations. Kindergarten will not have a 4. There is no correlation between a traditional 4.0/A and a 4 in SBG.

## **Yearlong Grading Periods**

Each grade level has specific learning targets derived from our state standards in all subject areas. Students have the entire year to master these targets. Targets will be taught throughout the entire school year. Therefore, our grading period is now yearlong. We will no longer have three trimesters. In addition, we will only have one report card at the end of the year. Progress Reports will be available in November and February. We encourage you to check Infinite Campus on a regular basis to monitor how your child is progressing towards mastery of the learning targets.

All learning targets are clustered together by courses. The ratings displayed represent the most recent rating entered in the gradebook, not a cumulative score. A final rating will be determined at the end of the school year by the classroom teacher based on the most recent student evidence at that time. Please contact your child's classroom teacher with any questions you have related to student learning and progress.

## **Priority Targets and Supporting Targets**

Each grade level has a multitude of targets. We have categorized these targets as priority targets and supporting targets. Priority Targets are targets that should be mastered at the end of the year. Supporting targets are targets that provide prerequisite knowledge for a priority target or are also targets that need to be reviewed. Infinite Campus will only contain ratings for priority targets. Teachers will continue to keep data on all targets in order to guide their instruction.