8 Principles of SBI

**Principle #1:** Grades should clearly communicate what students know and are able to do in class.

**Principle #2:** Students should have multiple opportunities to show what they know and can do.

**Principle #3:** Schools should support students in acquiring all the essential knowledge and skills in a course, versus just a portion of it.

**Principle #4:** Academic knowledge and work habits are both important to acquire for college and life.

**Principle #5:** If students are working hard (as shown by their habits of work score) to meet standards, they deserve more time and support to learn the material.

**Principle #6:** All students should have the opportunity to excel.

**Principle #7:** Regular communication with families about student progress supports deeper learning.

**Principle #8:** Learning cannot be averaged; students need time to practice and learn from mistakes.

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**Standards-Based Instruction**

**How Will I Know How My Student is Doing?**

**Monitoring your student’s progress:**
As a parent you may monitor your student’s progress through Parent Portal. In Parent Portal you will be able to see each assignment, the standard it addresses and the score the student received. Parents will see the evidence of the scores through student work and teacher feedback.

**How Will the Student’s Progress be Measured?**

Students will demonstrate their progress through a body of evidence aligned to grade level standards. The scores are not averaged. The purpose of standards-based instruction and scoring is to report what students know and are able to do; averaging does not represent an accurate picture of where a student is in his/her learning.

A student’s initial understanding may yield low scores. As learning progresses, the student’s understanding increases and scores reflect the new learning. Likewise, as rigor and complexity increase over the year, student’s learning and scores may change.

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**Standards-Based Instruction**

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What is Standards-Based Instruction (SBI)?

Standards-based instruction and scoring will be replacing the traditional grading system of letter grades. Instead of receiving one letter grade for a class, students will receive a score of a 4, 3, 2, or 1 to indicate their proficiency in each standard.

What is the purpose of Standards-Based Instruction?

The purpose of SBI is to provide an accurate picture of what a student has learned and still needs to learn. Secondly, it is to raise student achievement by clearly communicating a student’s progress towards learning standards in a timely, accurate, fair, and specific manner.

What are the advantages of SBI?

Parents and students can see which learning standards students have mastered and which ones need additional attention and support.

At-home conversations change from, “Why didn’t you finish your work?” to “Tell me your understanding of this standard,” and “What more do you need to do to achieve this benchmark?”

In addition to academic scores, students and parents receive separate scores around student work habits.

Students have multiple opportunities to show evidence towards learning. A single low score will not penalize overall performance.

What Do My Scores Mean?

**SCORE 4-Exemplary**

- Demonstrates excellence in mastering grade level expectations or standards
- Ability to transfer and apply learning to new situations
- Continuous and thorough understanding of content, observations, and insights
- Shows creativity, critical thinking, or makes unique connections

**SCORE 3-Meets**

- Shows thought and understanding of grade level content and expectations with little help or prompting
- Accurate insights, observations, and logical conclusions
- Develop the ability to transfer and apply grade level concepts

**SCORE 2-Progressing**

- Developing an understanding of grade level content and expectations and may require assistance to deepen
- Beginning to make connections, conclusions, and observations however, inconsistent across days/activities
- Ability is somewhat limited to transfer and apply grade level concepts

**SCORE 1-Emerging**

- Understanding of grade level content and expectations is limited
- Connections to conclusions and observations are beginning to emerge yet are limited or not connected at this time