

Disclosure Amendments

Señorita Hawkins ♦ Spanish 2 ♦ 2015-2016

All assignments will now be scored on a four-point scale.

What the New Grades Mean:

	EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS	MEETS EXPECTATIONS	APPROACHING EXPECTATIONS	DOES NOT MEET EXPECTATIONS
Number	4	3	2	1
Student "I can"	<i>I can teach it.</i>	<i>I can do it.</i>	<i>I need practice.</i>	<i>I need help.</i>
Letter Grade / Percentage	A 100%	B+ 75%	F 50%	F 25%
Proficiency Label (used on Standardized tests)	Highly Proficient	Proficient	Approaching (or minimally) proficient (still <i>below</i> proficient)	Below Proficient or Incomplete or Missing
ACTFL Language Proficiency Level	Intermediate Low or higher (Spanish 3 Target)	Novice High (Spanish 2 Target)	Novice Mid (Spanish 1 Target)	Novice Low

New Grading Breakdown:

Proficiency = 95%

Practice (includes work skills) = 5%

New Grading Scale:

A = 80-100%

B = 70-74%

C = 60-64%

B+ = 75-79%

C+ = 65-69%

F = 0-59%

When will the new grading system go into effect?

2nd quarter

Save this page for reference at home

Where does the new grading system come from?

This new grading system attempts to model what is being called, “Standards Based Grading” (SBG). I prefer to use the name, “**Proficiency Based Grading**,” since the term “standards” implies measuring students against every national core standard, and that is not what I seek to achieve this year. In 2017, high schools in Canyons School District will be required to adopt a SBG system; therefore many teachers are getting a head-start now to test it out with students. The results have been very positive.

Essentially, proficiency based grading **focuses on content mastery** over completion. Rather than having grading categories such as quizzes, homework, tests, and participation and grading assignments based on percent accurate or complete, a proficiency category which assesses content objectives is a majority of the grade. Last quarter this was already 80%, but for the rest of the year it will be increased to 95%.

Benefits

- Grades have meaning – only quizzes, tests and projects are calculated into grades.
 - These are called “proficiency assessments” in the World Language classroom.
- Students grades reflect their Mastery Level.
- Grades tell students, parents, employers, and colleges how proficient the student is in that subject and not just how much work they were able to get in.
- Practice Work (including homework and class work) is only 5% of grade.
- Students are allowed to retake and redo assessments until mastery is met.
- Teacher reteaches content to assist in student mastery of content.
- Higher grades. Believe it! Each year the more weight I’ve put on tests, the higher students’ grades have been.
- Students can’t earn a good grade without understanding the content, and if they can prove understanding of the content they can’t earn a bad grade (even if they’re missing some assignments). Students aren’t punished for poor work skills when they really know their stuff. Students aren’t rewarded for good work skills when they don’t really know their stuff.

Did you say “retakes”?!

One awesome thing that came from 1st quarter’s 80% proficiency is that students were coming in the mornings to get help understanding the quiz content! No longer were students just stopping by to get late assignments in the basket, they were really coming in to relearn concepts taught in class that they needed to improve on.

However, retakes without limits place an unfair burden on the teacher. Retakes are not meant for lazy or forgetful students. If a student follows *all* classroom expectations and study instructions and still doesn’t meet mastery, that student is in need of reteaching during Student Support Time (SST). In order to retake an assessment, students must have followed all directions for studying. This means:

- No missing assignments (late/absent is okay)
- Proving they followed study instructions the first time (they’ll be an assignment for this)
- Proving they followed study instructions for the retake (due at time of retake)
- Retaking the assessment within two weeks from when it was originally taken

~Although regular assignments will only be 5% of students’ grades, they will continue to be entered into the gradebook to communicate to both parents and students their progress towards mastery and responsibility for learning. Their overall grade in the “Practice” category will be used to better understand their “Proficiency” grades. Students learn that they need to do the work and follow classroom expectations in order to be successful on the assessments.

Student Name _____

Date _____ Period _____

Purpose

The purpose of this letter is to explain to parents why all assignments will show a number grade 0-4 and how that is reflected in their letter grade (percentages do not represent completion or accuracy).

- I have **read** Srta. Hawkins's disclosure amendments and hereby **understand** what the new grades mean.
- I understand the requirements for retaking an assessment.

Student Signature _____

Parent Signature _____

Recap on Late Work Policy

Since regular assignments will not have as big an impact on students' grades, there should be less stress around late work (or extra credit) and more stress put on retakes. Students should do their late work only to help them keep up with the class and not fall behind on tests. When students quickly and effortlessly try to complete (or copy) late work they do not learn that much to make it worth grading or falling even further behind on current assignments. Students should seek to better understand the content and prepare themselves more for the assessments. That being stated, the previous late work policy will be maintained as follows:

*Work due on the day of an **absence** must be turned in by the student's **second day back for** credit. After that, it will be counted as late. **Late** work can be submitted up to **two weeks after** the due date with a 50% reduction. Work turned-in after it is called for (or later found from the "no-name" basket) is considered late. Pay attention and follow instructions.*

Late and absent work goes in the yellow "LATE/ABSENT" basket. Even if you think you're immune from that label or reduction, put it there (NOT your period's basket) or I won't be able to find and grade it in a timely manner.