

LEARNING AND GRADING AT SAMS

1. What will my student learn this semester?

Here is a list of each of the essential standards for each course this semester.

What are essential standards?

- The 3-5 big learning goals that teachers have for all of their students.
- The skills and knowledge that students will develop mastery in throughout the course.
- Not the only things students will be learning - but the most important

Why are essential standards important?

- They provide leverage to the next steps of learning in the content area.
- They focus on rigorous and relevant content and skills - essential to the discipline.
- Student semester grades in these courses will depend on how students perform on these standards.

The essential standards are listed on the next 4 pages. Click on the links below to directly advance to those sections.

[6th Grade Core Classes](#)

[7th Grade Core Classes](#)

[8th Grade Core Classes](#)

[Elective and Support Classes](#)

2. How will my student be graded this year?

Student progress on learning will be reflected in 1-4 grades. (SAMS will no longer be using letters to represent grades such as A, B, C, D, and F.) These 1-4 grades will reflect how well students achieved meeting proficiency in each essential standard of the class.

What is proficiency-based grading?

- Grades based on performance, not completion
- Students receive a mark/score of 1-4 based on a scale that measure proficiency
- Grades not calculated by points
- Rooted in clarity around objectives, standards, and expectations
- Focused on learning, not compliance

Why is proficiency-based grading important?

- It aligns better with our goals and priorities at SAMS.
 - SAMS GOALS: Safe and manageable, authentic learning in a caring environment, challenge outdated and inequitable practices
 - SAMS PRIORITIES: 1. Build a healthy environment where we all can thrive., 2. Build a healthy learning environment at SAMS where all will learn & contribute.
- It is a more equitable, research-based approach to grading.

The gradebook score explanations and additional gradebook information is on page 6. Click on the link below to directly advance to that section.

[Gradebook Scores and More Grading Information](#)

6th Grade Core Classes

| | | | |
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| <p>Science Seminar</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I can analyze data to draw conclusions (from charts, graphs, texts, video, etc.). 2. I can make arguments based on scientific evidence. 3. I can be a critical consumer of information. 4. I can plan and carry out a scientific investigation. | <p>Wellness</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I can activate the skills necessary to participate in a wide variety of physical activities. 2. I can choose physical activities that I enjoy and, in doing so, can participate in for a lifetime. 3. I can make decisions to improve each area of my wellness (physical, mental, and social/emotional). 4. I can set goals to improve each area of my wellness (physical, mental, and social/emotional). |
| <p>Humanities</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I can craft quality writing in which the organization and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience. 2. I can effectively communicate my ideas, perspective, and/or stance. 3. I can evaluate sources and arguments. 4. I can apply historical thinking skills. | <p>Reading</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I can self-select, read, and comprehend from a variety of genres at my comfort level. 2. I can analyze my reading stamina and reflect on my reading choices, challenges, and personal success. 3. I can identify the elements of fiction within a text. 4. I can use specific text evidence to support my conclusions drawn from a text. |
| <p>6th Grade Math (6th Graders ONLY)</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I can read, write, represent, determine equivalency, and compare between numbers expressed as fractions, decimals, and percentages. 2. I can perform and apply operations with fractions, decimals, and percentages. 3. I can manipulate ratios and rates to compare, make predictions, and solve real-world problems. 4. I can evaluate algebraic expressions and solve algebraic equations. 5. I can convert between graphs, patterns, tables, and rules, allowing me to visually see a function relationship in a variety of formats. | <p>Read 180 (Your student will either have Reading or Read 180 based on skill level.)</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I can self-select, read, and comprehend from a variety of genres at my comfort level. 2. I can analyze my reading stamina and reflect on my reading choices, challenges, and personal success. 3. I can improve my reading comprehension comfort level. |

7th Grade Core Classes

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| <p>Science Seminar</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I can use foundational knowledge, criteria, and skills while responding to, creating, presenting, and evaluating artistic work. 2. I can combine my knowledge and personal experience to make artistic choices in order to give meaning to my artwork. 3. I can use my five senses to create accurate and informative representations of the natural world. 4. I can develop and revise visual models to represent my understanding of natural systems. 5. I can represent my observations in order to recognize and explain the meaning of patterns. | <p>Pre-Algebra (6th and 7th Graders)</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I can order, compare, and perform operations with integers. 2. I can manipulate expressions, equations, and inequalities to evaluate or solve for solutions. 3. I can solve problems involving ratios, rates, and proportions. 4. I can apply my knowledge of proportional relationships to solve real-world problems. 5. I can use patterns, tables, graphs, and equations to explore linear relationships. |
| <p>Humanities</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I can cite evidence from a variety of sources to support my ideas, analysis, reflection, and research. 2. I can consider and evaluate a variety of perspectives. 3. I can engage effectively in collaborative communication with others. 4. I can conduct research to answer questions, synthesize ideas, and make recommendations. | <p>Reading</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I can self-select, read, and comprehend from a variety of genres at my comfort level. 2. I can analyze my reading stamina and reflect on my reading choices, challenges, and personal success. 3. I can identify the elements of fiction within a text. 4. I can use specific text evidence to support my conclusions drawn from a text. |
| <p>Wellness</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I can activate the skills necessary to participate in a wide variety of physical activities. 2. I can choose physical activities that I enjoy and, in doing so, can participate in for a lifetime. 3. I can make decisions to improve each area of my wellness (physical, mental, and social/emotional). 4. I can set goals to improve each area of my wellness (physical, mental, and social/emotional). | | |

8th Grade Core Classes

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| <p>Science Seminar</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I can analyze models and data to draw conclusions. 2. I can use reasoning and evidence to form arguments. 3. I can identify misinformation and respond with logic. 4. I can think critically to solve problems when investigating issues in our environment. 5. I can use technology to design solutions and communicate my thinking. | <p>Math 8</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Students can perform operations of algebraic concepts. 2. Students can solve multi-step equations. 3. Students can solve and graph inequalities. 4. Students can identify functions. 5. Students can graph and manipulate linear equations. |
| <p>Humanities</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I can analyze multiple sources of information to draw conclusions. 2. I can examine problems from multiple perspectives. 3. I can write academically. 4. I can analyze multiple sources for bias. 5. I can read critically for evidence and perspective. | <p>Advanced Algebra (Your student will either have Math 8 or Adv. Algebra based on skill level.)</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I can identify algebraic expressions. 2. I can solve equations. 3. I can solve inequalities. 4. I can identify representations of linear functions. |
| <p>Wellness</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I can activate the skills necessary to participate in a wide variety of physical activities. 2. I can choose physical activities that I enjoy and, in doing so, can participate in for a lifetime. 3. I can make decisions to improve each area of my wellness (physical, mental, and social/emotional). 4. I can set goals to improve each area of my wellness (physical, mental, and social/emotional). | <p>Reading</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I can self-select, read, and comprehend from a variety of genres at my comfort level. 2. I can analyze my reading stamina and reflect on my reading choices, challenges, and personal success. 3. I can identify the elements of fiction within a text. 4. I can use specific text evidence to support my conclusions drawn from a text. |

Elective Classes

***Your student will not take all elective classes.**

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| Spanish | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I can read in order to communicate effectively in Spanish appropriate for the level and content. 2. I can write in order to communicate effectively in Spanish appropriate for the level and content. 3. I can listen in order to communicate effectively in Spanish appropriate for the level and content. 4. I can speak in order to communicate effectively in Spanish appropriate for the level and content. 5. I can compare and contrast my own personal cultural practices and products with those from Spanish-speaking countries. | FACS | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I can identify and apply the basic safety and sanitation guidelines used in the lab and at home. 2. I can identify the four parts of a recipe and measure accurately to successfully produce a quality product using the correct techniques and equipment. 3. I can identify the six basic nutrient groups and their functions to determine how to create a nutritious meal. 4. I have a basic understanding of financial literacy and know how to maintain a budget to live within my means. 5. I can analyze multiple online shopping services to select quality goods and services. |
| Band | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I can read and play music well on my instrument. This includes accurate notes, correct rhythms played with a steady beat, good tone, good technique, and attention to musical details. | Media Arts | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I have an understanding of composition in photography. 2. I can edit in a photo editor, and I can navigate new editing software. 3. I understand design and basic aesthetics when it comes to digital drawing and digital collage. 4. I have a basic understanding of filmmaking and its process. 5. I understand the basics of copyright law, and how it protects me and other creators. |
| Vocal Music | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I know the fundamental skills for music reading. 2. I know the fundamental skills for singing. 3. I can sing songs by singing along with the teacher. 4. I know the five main voice parts among singers and how to identify them. 5. I can have conversations as a group about music. | Husky Hour | Students will not receive a grade for this course. This course is focused on providing direct support for students through check-ins on organization, time management, and work completion of classwork. Students will learn more about their own learning and how to manage in distance learning. |

Support Classes

***Your student may or may not have these courses this year based on their individual academic and language needs.**

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| English Learners (ELD, Yang) | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I can read for meaning. 2. I can listen for meaning. 3. I can organize and analyze written and oral information. 4. I can use a variety of text structures orally and in writing. | Special Ed | These will be shared with families at a later time. |
| English Learners (ELD Beginners, Nelson) | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I can read for meaning. 2. I can listen for meaning. 3. I can develop accuracy in speaking and writing. 4. I can develop my vocabulary. 5. I can develop socio-cultural competency. | | |

2. How will my student be graded this year?

Student progress on learning will be reflected in 1-4 grades. (SAMS will no longer be using letters to represent grades such as A, B, C, D, and F.) These 1-4 grades will reflect how well students achieved meeting proficiency in each essential standard of the class.

If your child DID turn in the work, they will receive one of these scores:

| Gradebook Score | Meaning |
|-----------------|---|
| 4 | ABOVE AND BEYOND PROFICIENT Exceeds the basics of proficiency |
| 3 | PROFICIENT Meets the basics for proficiency |
| 2 | SOMEWHAT PROFICIENT Shows some areas of basic proficiency independently |
| 1 | FAR FROM PROFICIENT Shows some areas of basic proficiency with support from the teacher |

If your child did NOT turn in the work, they will receive one of these scores:

| Gradebook Score | Meaning |
|-----------------|---|
| M | MISSING Never turned in but can still be turned in for a grade |
| I | INCOMPLETE Never turned in and can no longer be turned in for a grade |
| X | EXCUSED Student does not need to turn it in, does not impact grade |

Summative assessments will be the only scores that will be part of a student's grade. Examples of summative assessments include projects, essays, or tests that students take at the end of a unit to show their growth and learning. ***Daily homework will not be included in student grades.*** For more information on this new grading system, click [HERE](#) to view a presentation shared with students. Questions about grades should first be directed to individual teachers. Questions that remain about grades can be directed to Ms. EmaKate Brohman, Dean of Students at SAMS. Parents may access their child's current class grade status, progress reports, general information and attendance records over the Internet through Skyward. Only parents who have requested reports will receive a paper copy of their child's progress. At SAMS, we do not have an accurate class rank nor do we have an honor roll.

Exception: Students will not receive a grade for Husky Hour or ADSIS Support. These two classes will not be listed when looking up grades in Skyward.