



# Move to Standards-Based Grading Under Way At Pillager School

The Pillager School District is excited to continue moving toward standards-based grading. As early as fall Parent-Teacher Conferences, the community will begin to see the impact of this new change. Parents of Pillager Elementary students will only see **feedback from teachers - not full report cards**. *Elementary report cards and conferences will not happen until mid-year when those teachers have completed more standards, students have had sufficient opportunity to demonstrate mastery in their grade level standards, and a more clear picture of what students are able to do and demonstrate has emerged. Middle and High School Parent-Teacher Conferences will be similar to what you have been familiar with as traditional conferencing. (4-8 pm / Nov. 26)*

Because grades in a traditional grading system are averaged over an entire quarter, and teachers may assign points for behavior or extra credit, a student's true understanding of a concept can be masked and grades inflated. A standards-based grading system, on the other hand, measures a student's mastery of content standards by assessing their most recent and **consistent** level of performance. *Standards-based grading more clearly communicates how students are performing on a set of defined learning targets called standards and identifies what a student knows, or is able to do, in relation to the pre-established targets. Thus, a student who may struggle when they first encounter new material at the beginning of a course may still be able to demonstrate mastery of the standard by the end of a grading period.*

### Traditional Grading System

- An emphasis on averaging a percentage score over the grading period.
- Scores on quizzes, tests, projects, attendance, behavior, or other criteria are added and divided to determine a percentage up to 100.
- Points are often added or deducted based on the student's behavior, work completion or participation.
- Student behavior is often mixed in with academics to determine the grade.
- Teachers may determine their own criteria for what constitutes an "A", based on a variety of factors.

### Standards Based

- Emphasis on looking at the most recent evidence of student work and the student's entire body of work to determine a grade.
- Scores on assessments are given on a 3-point scale based on a clearly defined performance rubric (proficiency scale).
- No points are added or taken off. Students are graded based on what they know and are able to do.
- Student behavior is reported separately based on a specific set of criteria.
- Teachers work collaboratively to determine proficient work on the standards using a clear rubric called a proficiency scale.

### Traditional Report Card

Class	Q1
Mathematics	95% = A

### Standards-based Report Card

Class/Standards	Q1
Mathematics	3
I can define a number sentence	2
I can solve number sentences that have brackets	2
I can solve number sentences that have braces	3
I can create number patterns using two rules	3
I can estimate the answers of number sentences	2
I can find the sum of two 2-digit numbers	3
I can find the difference of two 2-digit numbers	2
I can find the product of two 2-digit numbers	2
I can find the quotient of two 2-digit numbers	3

As the grading system becomes familiar, you'll get more comfortable. The important thing is that your child is learning and making progress. Celebrate learning, and the grades will follow. Again, Pillager Elementary School students will be working with Standards Based Grading now, and Pillager Middle School students will follow next year. Some Middle School teachers have begun to move toward this new system as well. As always, anytime you have questions about your child's performance, contact his/her teacher right away. Our dedicated, professional staff have the goal of helping your child achieve his/her goals!