

Dear Parents,

This year the Math department at Rocky is going to Standards Based Grading built upon the Utah Core Standards. These standards are a set of math skills that students need in order to be capable adults and successfully move on to the next level of math. Just like learning a sport or a musical instrument, students need time, practice, and perseverance to learn new skills. We are committed to helping your students learn these math skills. This grading format will help students, teachers, and parents know exactly what skills students have learned and what skills they still need to work on.

We will be using a 10 point scale to determine at what level of proficiency the students can perform a skill.

SCALE	PROFICIENCY LEVEL	DESCRIPTION
10	Expert	Complete and masterful understanding with the ability to apply the standard with consistency
8	Proficient	Meaningful understanding of the standard with minor errors
5	Emerging	Emergent understanding of the standard with several gaps
0	Insufficient/ No Evidence	Too little or no evidence submitted to assess learning
I	Incomplete	For any essential assessment not completed Reassessment within time frame

Students need to perform at a 8 or 10 level in order to pass off skills in the standard (unit). If they do not have a 8 or 10, they will be able to keep working on that skill until they can demonstrate proficiency.

**Students' grades will reflect what they know and can do rather than what assignments were turned in.** 80% of your student's grade will be based on their proficiency. Assignments are still an integral part of math class as they are the necessary practice that students need in order to become proficient. Therefore, 20% of the grade will be based on homework and class participation.

**Assessment policy:** All students must complete the practice test at 100% before they can receive the final unit test.

**Reassessment Policy**

1. All students will be given the opportunity to reassess on unit tests (not quizzes).
2. Students will receive their highest score.
3. All reassessments will cover the same material as the original, however in most cases, the questions will be different. It is also possible for the format to be changed. The focus is on the demonstration of learning, not necessarily the replication of assessment events.
4. Before reassessing, students may be required to attend a tutorial, or be expected to complete any other task, or any criteria as directed by the teacher's classroom social contract.
5. Students will have **2 weeks after the original test** to complete any reassessment.

**So what does this mean for you as a parent?**

1. Be aware that this means that your student's grades may change drastically from day to day. One day a student could have an A and the next day they could have an F because they were not proficient on the test they took that day. Then, 2 days later after a retest, they could have B because they showed that they learned how to do that skill.
2. Rather than encourage your student to not have any missing assignments, encourage them to get their retesting done to show proficiency.
3. Instead of asking "What did you do today?" ask "What did you learn today?"

**So what does this mean for you as a student?**

1. Learning the skill rather than completing the assignment is more important. We want you to make lots of mistakes on your assignments so that you can learn the skill and then practice it again so you can see if you learned it.
2. If you didn't get it the first time, learn what you did wrong, and keep trying. Remediation and Retesting are your friends. You will have a weekly opportunity during class to remediate. You may also set up a time with your teacher to come in before or after school. That is how you get your grade up, by proving that you know how to do it.
3. Instead of asking your friends "What did we do in math today?" ask "What did we learn in math today?"

We are excited that this way of tracking data will give us a better understanding of your student's math skills. It will help us target our instruction to better meet their needs and it will give students a better understanding of which skills they need to practice to get better.

Thank you,  
RMJH Math Department