

Justice Page Middle School

Standards-Based Grading FAQs

FOR A VIDEO EXPLANATION OF SBG, GO TO <https://www.wevideo.com/view/951409073>

What is standards-based grading?

Standards-based grading (SBG) measures your student’s mastery of state standards for a specific content area, in other words, how well your student understands the concepts for each class. Knowledge is assessed in a variety of ways including tests, projects, discussions, reports, etc. Students will earn Learning Target assessment grades for each standard, and an overall grade that averages the cumulative work.

The goal of SBG is to provide teachers, students and families with accurate information about how students understand grade-level material and to encourage dialogue about how the student can master the material for the class.

How is standards-based grading different from traditional grading?

In a traditional 100-point grading system, grades are typically based on all work assigned in class. SBG places greater emphasis on assessment scores to show mastery than on daily assignments. Our goal is to help your child be successful in each expected component of a class. Assignments and assessments are graded on a 1-4 scale to show your student’s mastery of materials.

What do the scores on the 4.0 scale used to grade assignments mean?

Each score on the 4.0 scale each has a very specific meaning. They are:

- 4 (Exceeds Standards): Students demonstrate an advanced understanding and application of content materials.
- 3 (Meets Standards): Students have mastered the expected targeted knowledge for a specific learning target.
- 2 (Partially Meets Standards): Students show progress toward understanding the learning target, but have not yet mastered the content knowledge. Students may be able to demonstrate higher skill with significant help from the teacher.
- 1 (Does Not Meet Standards): Students have a foundational or limited understanding of material but need more time, work and assistance to better understand the concepts.
- 0/NE (No Evidence): Students show no understanding or no evidence of the material.

Intermediate scores, such as 1.5, 2.5 and 3.5 show students’ progress toward the next level of mastery.

What is the grade scale for Justice Page grading?

If you see this in the Portal/Gradebook...	=	This is the letter grade.	=	This is the traditional grade range.	=	This is the SBG average.	=	These are sample LT scores.
95 – 100%	=	A	=	94 – 100	=	3.8 – 4.0	=	4 4 4 4 4 or 4 4 4 4 3
90.0 – 94.9%	=	A-	=	90 – 93	=	3.6 – 3.7	=	4 4 4 3 3
85.0 – 89.9%	=	B+	=	87 – 89	=	3.4 – 3.5	=	4 4 3 3 3
70.0 – 84.9%	=	B	=	83 – 86	=	2.8 – 3.3	=	4 3 3 3 3 or 3 3 3 3 3 or 3 3 3 3 2
65.0 – 69.9%	=	B-	=	80 – 82	=	2.6 – 2.7	=	3 3 3 2 2
60.0 – 64.9%	=	C+	=	77 – 79	=	2.4 – 2.5	=	3 3 2 2 2
45.0 – 59.9%	=	C	=	73 – 76	=	1.8 – 2.3	=	3 2 2 2 2 or 2 2 2 2 2 or 2 2 2 2 1
40.0 – 44.9%	=	C-	=	70 – 72	=	1.6 – 1.7	=	2 2 2 1 1
20.0 – 39.9%	=	D	=	60 – 69	=	1.0 – 1.5	=	2 2 1 1 1 or 2 1 1 1 1 or 1 1 1 1 1
0 – 19.9%	=	F	=	0 – 59	=	0.0 – 0.9	=	1 1 1 1 0 or 1 1 1 0 0 or 1 1 0 0 0

Why are the percentages different in the Student/Parent Portal than in a traditional grading scale?

The Discovery Portal has certain limitations about how information can be presented, one of them being it has to use a 100-point scale. The adjusted percentages are the way we can make our 1-4 SBG scale for assignments translate into letter grades that match our SBG philosophy. As adults, we need to forget the traditional scale we grew up with. It does not apply to SBG.

What can my student do to raise their grade in a standards-based class?

Because learning is a process that takes place over time, students are given opportunities to “redo” or retake major assessments to show increased mastery. If the redo score is higher, it replaces the original score. Because the focus is on mastery of grade level content, extra credit points are not offered.

What does my student need to do in order to be reassessed?

Each grade level content team at Justice Page will create an overall redo/retake/revision policy that is communicated to students and parents on a syllabus and website. Policies will vary according to content and grade based on the different dynamics of the class and work. Generally students are encouraged to get extra help from a teacher before redoing an assessment.

Some examples of a revision policy are:

- *Learning activities must be completed by...x date*
- *In order to identify gaps in learning, students must complete a reflection and/or additional practice before the retake/redo.*
- *Opportunities for retakes will occur outside of the regular class period, such as before or after school.*
- *Alternate assignments may be available at the teacher’s discretion when a learning experience cannot be replicated.*
- *Redos and retake opportunities will have the same content but not necessarily the same format or questions.*
- *All assessment retakes must be completed within X days of receiving the original score.*
- *All other redos must be turned in at least X days before the last day of the quarter.*

Redo opportunities may vary by type of assignment. For example, in ELA 8, students may not “redo” discussion preparation notes AFTER the discussion, but may redo most essays. Teachers will tell students what the policy is for each assignment.

How does homework count?

Practice makes perfect. Just like a championship team doesn’t win without many hours of practice, students don’t succeed academically without repeated practice. Homework is practice beyond the classroom that allows students to deepen their skills and understanding. It also gives teachers a more complete picture of a student’s knowledge and areas for growth.

At JPS homework counts for 20% of your child’s grade. It is classified under “Work Habits”, a category which may also include other activities as appropriate to each content area.

Are non-academic factors, such as effort and participation part of the class grade?

These factors have always been and will continue to be an important part of your student’s success. At JPS, these factors, including homework, count for up to 20% of your child’s overall grade (recorded under “Work Habits”). Our hope is that students learn to recognize how important these factors are and develop the strong habits in these areas that will lead to success in high school and beyond.

How often will grades be updated in the Student/Parent Portal?

At Justice Page all teachers will update the Student/Parent Portal at least every two weeks.

We ask students to check their grades on Wednesdays during Advisory as part of academic check-in. We encourage families to check grades together at least once a week as well. If you have questions about your child’s grade, please contact the appropriate teacher. (Or, when possible, have your student email the teacher with a question and copy you on the email. This helps students become their own advocates. In this process, it is important to help your child remember to read response emails from the teacher.)