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SCHOOL MATTERS

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SCHOOL CALENDAR



CHROMEBOOKS AT THE SECONDARY?



CONVERTING GRADES AND GPA USING SBG

School Calendar:

Over the past month or so, I have been sharing draft calendars with our School Board, administration and teachers in order get feedback and to elicit ideas and suggestions about the 2016-2017 school calendar. We are currently on Draft 3 of that proposed calendar. I provided a draft (and I do mean draft) copy of this most recent calendar to your principals and union leaders this week and have asked for their thoughts and comments. I would like to bring a final calendar for approval at our February 22nd School Board Meeting.

If you would like to view this draft calendar, you can access it on our School Webpage or by using this link: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/oB6rZqusMerF7VllXS1B3LWooTTg/view?usp=sharing>



Grades and GPA:



As our administration and faculty explore a more accurate way to assess and report what students actually know and are able to do; one of the first questions that comes to mind is: “What about letter grades and GPA?” Especially for high school classes, this is a valid question. Letter grades and GPA still remain important in high schools for a number of reasons. First of all, they are established and widely accepted measures of summative performance. Secondly, GPA and grades give colleges and selection committees a common measure of achievement. Thirdly: parents, students and community members alike are familiar with letter grades and GPA. To alleviate any concerns, there will be a conversion which will give each student a letter grade and GPA for summative reporting at the end of a semester and course. It is perfectly understandable to have concerns, but blending a standard based assessment

with a letter grade and GPA is achievable. This is just one of many examples of how grades could be blended into a standards based assessment.

Summative Score	Interpretation	Letter Grade
3.4	Exceeds	A
3.15	Exceeds	A-
3.0	Meets	B+
2.80	Meets	B
2.65	Meets	B-
2.50	Partially Meets	C+
2.15	Partially Meets	C
2.0	Partially Meets	C-
1.65	Does Not Meet	D+
1.50	Does Not Meet	D
1.35	Does Not Meet	D-
Below 1.35	Does Not Meet	F

Rubric Score	Marzano Rubric Description	
Score 4.0	In addition to Score 3.0, inferences and applications that go beyond what was taught.	
Score 3.5	In addition to Score 3.0 performance, partial success at inferences and applications that go beyond what was taught.	
Score 3.0	No major errors or omissions regarding any of the information and/or processes (simple or complex) that were explicitly taught.	
Score 2.5	No major errors or omissions regarding the simpler details and process and partial knowledge of the more complex ideas and processes.	
Score 2.0	No major errors or omissions regarding the simpler details and processes but major errors or omissions regarding the more complex ideas and processes.	
Score 1.5	Partial knowledge of the simpler details and processes but major errors or omissions regarding the more complex ideas and procedures.	
Score 1.0	With help, a partial understanding of some of the simpler details and processes and some of the more complex ideas and processes.	
Score 0.5	With help, a partial understanding of some of the simpler details and processes but not the more complex ideas and processes.	
Score 0.0	Even with help, no understanding or skill demonstrated.	

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If you would like to learn more about grades and grading ask your school principal for a copy of Thomas Guskey’s book *On Your Mark* which provides an excellent examination for the purpose of grading.

Chromebooks:

As we continue to examine digital engagement and the deployment of digital devices like iPads to our students; we have learned a lot about our students and how to manage a digitally engaged environment. Looking at next year, our secondary administration and teachers are exploring the use of Chromebooks in grades 9-12 and perhaps in grades 8-12. Our initial thought is to assign our current secondary iPads in those grades to our elementary schools. From a budgeting perspective, the cost of Chromebooks is about half the cost of an iPad. Additionally, secondary students tend to need a keyboard more than elementary students. There is certainly some exciting potential in this exploratory vision. I will continue to provide additional information about this idea.



In Closing

Thanks for all you do for our District and for our students. In order for our schools to be successful, it takes commitment and teamwork. I am proud of the work we accomplish together and I am thankful for your commitment to our students and education. I hope you have a well deserved and terrific President’s Day weekend.