

Dear Parents,

This year, we will implement Proficiency Based Grading (PBG) as per Granite School District's new policy. Some teachers and elementary schools have piloted this program, so you may be familiar with this system. However, this may be new for some of you. Regardless if you have seen PBG in action before or not, we want to make you aware of how PBG will work specifically in your student's English class here at Olympus Junior High School. Here are a few reasons why we are using PBG, how it works in English, and how it is different than the previous traditional grading system:

- With PBG, grades will have meaning. Rather than doing the work and being assigned an arbitrary amount of points, students will actually be demonstrating their proficiency. Most assessments will be tied to rubrics, and students are allowed to retake assessments until proficiency is mastered. Because students will be showing what they've learned through assessments, some assignments will only be used as practice to prepare for assessments.
- Your student's grading method does not vary class by class -- students will know where they stand in regards to their skill level and it will be consistent among all of the English teachers.
- PBG emphasizes quality over quantity. Proficiency based grading ensures quality student work and decreases busy work. The ability to measure the quality of one's own work is a learned skill. PBG allows us to create an environment in which students come to terms with their current ability level and improve.
- For English, your student may not have a grade -- or may have an incomplete grade -- for most of the first term. In English, we teach and establish skills in first term that will be used the entire year; however, a final grade will not be generated for a standard until there are at least three assessments for that standard. Many of the standards will have been assessed multiple times by the end of the year, and students will continue to have opportunities to improve. Please understand that you and your student will have a more complete understanding of their proficiency as the year progresses.

"What is my grade?" It is different! We understand that a lot of students will want to equate the proficiency scale with a letter grade. Don't. 4 is not an A. 1 is not an F. In fact, we would like for you to embrace the new idea that there are NO LETTER GRADES! See proficiency scale below to see if you have mastered each standard.



Highly Proficient-4 I exceed expectations and can apply the standard in complex ways.

Proficient-3 I meet the expectations described in the standard and can do them independently.

Approaching Proficient-2 I am getting close to meeting expectations and can do the simpler parts of the standard independently.

Below Proficient-1 I still need help and support from my teacher to do the simpler parts of the standard.

Sincerely,
Your English Department