

Grading Practices for Integrated Science (Standards-Based Grading) updated as of 8/18/21

(Also, this will be on my website at <https://www.pickphysics.com> under the 'Integrated Science' page)

After a discussion with my Integrated Science classes, we're moving forward with Standards Based Grading (SBG). I used this for the last three years in some of my physics classes, and it was well received by students. I think this will work really well for Integrated Science. This year my goal is to have a set about forty-five total standards that we will try to master throughout the year. These will be a mix of both process standards (such as Lab Skills or Habits of Mind) and content standards (such as those relating to Forces or Chemical Reactions).

My goal is that each standard will count for 10 points. You will have multiple attempts to attain each standard, and you will be allowed to retake a content standard at any point during the year (up to one standard a week) if you fill out a form requesting this and complete certain reasonable requirements prior to the retake date. You may earn points for content standards from labs, activities, or tests/quizzes, but the final score will often be from a test or quiz.

Your grade at any point in time for a certain standard will depend on two methods of scoring. For Content standards and Habits of Mind standards, your grade for each standard will be determined as an average between your **highest score** and your **most recent (latest)** score for that standard, with at least two different assignments making up your average. In other words, the two averaged scores must be unique. For example, if your most recent score was also the highest score, then I would not count that twice. However, if you have a most recent score and an earlier score on another assignment which are both the highest score, I would average those. For Habits of Mind, we will have you fill out a performance rubric toward the end of the quarter which allows you to reflect on how you've done in each area, and a place where I can give you individualized feedback. Things in the Habits of Mind area include aspects of homework, effort, participation in class discussions and activities, keeping electronic devices away in class, timeliness of getting work done, willingness to improve your work, etc.

Lab Skills and Scientific Reasoning standards reflect the lab work we do all year, and for these standards your grade will be determined by **averaging your best score and the average of all your scores for each standard**. This is called a decaying average, by the way. You can also ask to reassess the lab standards, although most likely this will be a lab activity. Also, since we do labs all year, simply improving on your next lab (which will then be the most recent) is the easiest way to improve your score in those standards.

As discussed in class early on, *this year I want to use cumulative grading, where your grade as the year goes on reflects your mastery of the standards up to that point. Therefore, your final grade for the year would be forced to be the same as your 4th quarter grade since it reflects your mastery of the content and process skills all year long.* To allow you to improve all year, I'll have opportunities throughout the year for improving your scores in any standard we've covered up to that point. At times, this might mean having parts of a test or lab require you to demonstrate understanding from earlier in the year, but it also means you're likely to really learn it, not just memorize and forget that content or skill. I'll also allow for retakes all year. My intention is to allow students to retake up to one standard every week if they want, as long as I have enough notice for you to do so. We'll discuss the details of this in class. My goal is to be as fair as possible, and help you really learn as much as possible without wasting your time. It also involves trust. I trust my students to give a good faith effort in class, and I hope you trust me to have a grading system that's fair and clear. I'll get feedback from you all year long, and if we don't think things are going well, we can adjust how this goes. If you retake a standard and still don't show a solid understanding, but you still want to improve, we will come up with an additional opportunity to allow you to try and do so.

A NOTE TO PARENTS AND STUDENTS: Don't fret! Often times the first attempt at a standard isn't going to be the best. That's expected and normal. What it means is you need to NOT PANIC and understand that there will be multiple attempts at every content standard, and that normally this means your score in a standard will go up over time. Sometimes it may take a while, but you will have these extra attempts. If for some reason we won't have multiple attempts at a standard, I won't end up having that count toward your grade.

My intention is to provide you with a list of the standards to be assessed, although early in the year this is subject to change. Obviously if we don't get to cover a certain topic in class, I wouldn't assess you on standards related to that content. I'll update grades once a week in something called SBGBook online (<https://www.sbgbook.xyz/gbook/login/>) after I get that set up the weekend of August 28-29. The grading average is what will be reported to Infinite Campus, not any other details.

My hope is this will be clearer and fairer way to score students' ability to perform in class. Some of the best physics teachers nationally use this system, and one of the best English teachers I've known (Mr. Baptist, who's now an assistant principal at Lakeview Junior High) used a similar system at Pickerington North! Now, I want to take class time to answer specific questions you may have.