

Southern High School Mathematics Department



Standard Based Grading

Standards based grading will be used in this course. Each lesson is developed to teach a specific content standard (essential knowledge, concept, or skill). Your grade for each quarter will be based on your demonstration of mastery of these content standards. Standards will be assessed often and over time. You will have multiple opportunities to demonstrate mastery. Your grade on each standard will be determined by showing clear and consistent evidence of mastery. You will not be penalized for multiple attempts at mastery. Some standards may be given greater weight than others.

What is a standard?

A standard is an essential skill or concept covered in this course. These standards are determined by the State of Maryland, Anne Arundel County Public Schools, and for AP classes, the College Board. Each class period there are learning outcomes posted. These outcomes are what you are supposed to learn in order to master the standards.

How is my grade determined?

Your grade for a standard will be determined your mastery of a standard, measured by your assessment grades. Some assessments might cover just one standard. Others might cover several standards. Your course grade will be determined by your grades on each standard.

What does it mean that “you will not be penalized for multiple attempts at mastery”?

You will be tested on a standard many times. If you fail to show that you can “do the math”; you will be given a chance to redo an assessment on that standard. If you then show you can “do the math”; lower grades on that standard will not be held against you. Once you have shown you have mastered a standard, your grades will reflect that mastery. Mastery means you must be able to show you can do problems on a standard consistently, not just today, but tomorrow, next week, next month, and whenever you see a problem on that standard. Retesting a standard is not just doing test corrections or taking an assessment on the “same” problem again. It means taking a new assessment on the “same types of problems”. You will do this retesting after you have done sufficient extra work on the standard during I&I and/or outside of class time. Retesting will occur during class, I&I and/ or outside of class time. Your grade on a standard will reflect whether you can “do the math”. At the time of your report card, your grade will reflect the math you know, the standards you have mastered and those you still need to master.

What if I am not successful on a standard?

It is your responsibility to seek out the help. Get extra help or work from your teacher during I&I and/or after school. Find another student to help you. Use the internet. Do whatever it takes to master the standard.

Why is homework or class work not part of my grade?

Homework will be assigned and recorded. The purpose of homework is to practice, reinforce, and extend your understanding of the content standards. Homework is essential for mastery of the standards. It is your responsibility to manage your time throughout the week to complete these assignments and to seek help if needed. After doing the homework you need to show (on an assessment) that you can “do the math” and mastered the standard. Evidence of doing the homework may be required before retesting.

Example in sports: A team practices (does homework) to get better. How do they know if the practice helped? Do they win the game? Or did they improve in some area of the game? Practice does not earn them any points on game day. Practice helps you improve. When you improve your game, you become a very valuable member of the team and will be rewarded for your effort.