

Standards Aligned Grading 2016-2017

This year the science department will be using the Standards Aligned Grading (SAG) system to evaluate student performance. What is SAG? SAG is essentially a grading method used to help students identify their strengths and weaknesses in their learning. It promotes that teachers provide meaningful assessments and quicker feedback to students and parents.

Traditionally, students' marking period grades were determined by their test, quiz, homework, classwork, and lab grades. ***In SAG, however, students' marking period grades are based on their performance in certain skills, or categories.*** In science, students will be assessed in these categories per marking period:

- **Content**
 - facts, vocabulary, identifying variables and equations (*How well do I know it?*)
- **Application**
 - problem solving, designing an experiment, analyzing data (*How well can I apply what I know?*)
- **Science Literacy**
 - developing graphs, writing conclusions, explaining and defending your answer (*How well can I explain what I know?*)
- **21st Century Skills**
 - creativity, group work, following directions, meeting deadlines

How does this translate into your grade? Let's look at an example comparing the traditional grading method and the SAG method.

Traditional method: Sally earned a 90% on her Chapter 3 test. What does this 90% represent? It should represent how well she knows, understands, and applies the material learned in Chapter 3. But that 90% could be vague in representing where she is weak in her understanding of the material.

SAG Method: The chapter 3 material was assessed in three categories: content, application, and science literacy. Sally earned 45/50 points in Content, 40/50 points in Application, and 10/10 points in Science Literacy. Each of these separate grades is recorded in Powerschool. The three scores are **not** recorded as an average, but as ***individual grades***. Based on the results, Sally needs to focus on Application, specifically in the problem solving portion. Sally has an opportunity to retake one assessment per marking period. If she is interested in improving this assessment and meets the requirements of the Science Department's retest policy, she can retake all three categories or one category of the assessment.

All assessments (tests, quizzes, labs, etc.) are graded in total points. **Categories on an assessment do not have to have the same number of points.** For example, Sally is working on a lab. The teacher decided for this lab that the content portion will be worth 10 points, the application 30 points, and the science literacy 20 points.