

WHARTON BOROUGH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

www.wbps.org

“Learn to Thrive in a Dynamic World”

Marie V. Duffy Elementary School

“Governor’s School of Excellence”
Pamela S. Blalock, Principal

Alfred C. MacKinnon Middle School

Dr. Patrick Ketch, Principal

Christopher Herdman
Superintendent

Sandy Cammarata
Business Administrator

Colleen Silvestri
Director of
Curriculum & Instruction

Marie Giantomasi
Director of Special Education
& Child Study Team Services

Board of Education
Robin Ghebreal
President

Theresa Yeager
Vice President

Anthony Astrologo
Gilbert Bahr
Paul Breda
Jennifer DiSanto
Wayne Schiele

Superintendent’s Office
973.361.2592
Fax 973.895.2187

Business Office
973.361.2593
Fax 973.442-7593

Marie V. Duffy School
973.361.2506
Fax 973.361.4917

Alfred C. MacKinnon School
973.361.1253
Fax 973.361.4805

Child Study Team
973.361.3010
Fax 973.361.4897

Guidance
973.361.2506
Fax 973.361.4917

137 East Central Avenue
Wharton, NJ 07885

November 26, 2018

Dear Parents and Guardians,

While parents have expressed their appreciation and support of Standards Based Grading in the elementary school and acknowledged the increased detail in specific feedback of their child’s progress, particularly in conferences, the acceptance of this reporting method has not been as widely embraced by parents in the middle school. With that, beginning with the start of the new trimester, we will return to a percentage based grading while keeping principles of Standards Based Reporting.

The middle school will continue to report in trimesters. This permits more time for students to demonstrate mastery of individual standards. Teachers will still report their grades according to the standards on the report card, however, student assessment will be scored with a traditional percent. Next to the percent, at the end of the trimester, will be the 1-4 score that would have been associated with the percentage for your reference. Please see the small example below:

	English/Language Arts		
Reads with fluency (accuracy, rate, and expression)		87	3
Cites explicit evidence (including quotes) from text to support inferences		92	4
Determines main idea and key details in order to summarize a text and/or identify a variety of story elements		96	4
Compares/contrasts a variety of story elements in single or multiple texts		74	2

The student’s average would be computed by a traditional average of all standards within each content area.

The benefits from which students will continue to gain are the maintenance of trimesters, continued emphasis on the individual standards, in addition to nightly reading, differentiated homework (meaning homework based on student need), and more challenging assessments. Additionally, and stated above, the SBRC scores will be listed for your reference.

A negative of returning to this reporting is that a student’s average may not reflect their actual knowledge or attainment of each standard at the end of each grading period. This means student grades from the onset of the grading period and the beginning of their learning of the standard may weigh down or lower their end of marking period grade, at which time they may have the standard mastered.

After the close of the 2018-2019 school year, and as a part of the work done in the early summer, I will prepare a study comparing student’s traditional percentage scores to corresponding SBRC scores.

The Wharton School District will continuously strive to improve and provide the best education to your children. Your child’s academic and social-emotional growth is our paramount goal which complements the district’s mission for students to “learn to thrive in a dynamic world”. Based on feedback from the board, teachers, students and parents, we have made changes in how Standards Based Learning practices will be reported in the middle school. We have now concluded that it would be best to proceed with the changes we have made through the end of this school year, and then assess further any additional changes for next year.

I am very excited for, and appreciative of, the parent involvement in our schools. This active involvement is what makes our district so special.

Sincerely,

Christopher J. Herdman

Christopher J. Herdman
Superintendent