



August 23, 2016

Dear Parent and/or Guardian,

This year, Patapsco High School & Center for the Arts is striving to improve the accuracy and consistency of our grading practices. As part of a continual improvement process, BCPS has selected four schools to pilot a standards-based, four-point grading scale within teachers' grade books in BCPS One. Patapsco High School & Center for the Arts was selected to be one of these four schools.

The purpose of standards-based grading is to improve the ability to communicate what students know and are able to do in relation to the course expectations or standards. Current research on effective grading indicates that a grade based on frequent use of scales with clear descriptors align to course expectations, results in a more accurate indication of student performance and a more accurate report card grade.

The implementation of the four-point scale will not change how students' grades are reported on report cards, how honor roll is determined, class rank, quality point average, or how high school grade point averages will be determined. This will only change how individual teachers grade assignments and assessments in their grade books.

As you will see in the BCPS One grade book, all assignments will fall into one of three categories, Major, Minor, and Non-Graded. Minor graded assignment examples include: learning checks, quizzes, class discussions, and labs. Major graded assignment examples include: end of unit summative assessments, student centered projects, performances and works of art.

At the end of the marking period, the four-point scale will be converted into letter grades for a student's report card. The chart below outlines how the four point scale will be converted into letter grades:



**PATAPSCO**  
**HIGH SCHOOL**

AND  
*Center for the Arts*

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Mr. Craig T. Reed, Principal

Standards-Based Scale Score	Percentage Score	Letter Grade	Descriptor
4.0	100%	A	Exceeding Standards
3.5	95%	A	
3.0	90%	A	
2.5	80%	B	Meeting Standards
2.0	70%	C	Approaching Standards
1.5	65%	D	Developing Towards Standards
1.0	60%	D	
Below 1.0	Below 60%	E	Limited or No Evidence of Understanding (No Credit Awarded)

In utilizing this new 4.0 standards based grade scale, students will receive accurate and consistent implementation of both the grading and the reporting of student learning. Beginning the 2016-2017 school year, students will be receiving a new report card separating student achievement from student work habits. The next letter will explain how the new report card will indicate student progress.

Sincerely,

Craig T. Reed  
Principal

