

Dear Parents and Guardians,

At Tonaquint Intermediate School, we are committed to thinking differently about education and the learning process. With this in mind, we want to share the practices we will be collectively implementing to measure and report your student's learning. As a staff, we see learning as a process and believe that a student's academic mark should be a reflection of their learning and progress in a course or subject area. Therefore, all marks entered in PowerSchool will directly correlate to the evidence of learning in each subject matter's target areas.

As such, we will not be using a traditional grading scale of percentages, averages and letter grades. Instead, we will be using the Evidence-Based Grading Scale shown below:

**Proficiency Scale (Descriptions can be adjusted slightly depending on the subject)**

<b>4</b>	Beyond Proficient	The student understands at an <u>IN DEPTH</u> level and can teach it or apply it to the world.
<b>3</b>	Proficient	The student understands and is <u>PROFICIENT</u> in a majority of demonstrations of the concept.
<b>2</b>	Approaching Proficient	The student demonstrates <u>SOME</u> knowledge and understanding of the concept but lacks proficiency in key areas.
<b>1</b>	Minimally Proficient	The student has <u>NOT YET</u> demonstrated an understanding of the concept and requires continual support.
<b>NE</b>	No Evidence	The student has provided <u>NO EVIDENCE</u> of learning.

Along with this, we are professionally committed to implementing research-based best practices in assessment and learning at Tonaquint. For example:

- **Essential standards/skills**-Instead of teachers pressing to superficially cover an overwhelming number of standards, teacher teams will focus on essential standards/skills that students will need to know in order to be successful in the course and beyond.
- **Assignments**-Assignments will be given to practice and receive targeted feedback on a specific skill (or skills.) Assignments WILL NOT be used as a major part of a student's academic grade (or learning report). Assignments will instead be used as practice in preparation for the Evidence of Learning where students will be able to show what they know. Assignments will be used for the teacher to provide targeted feedback for your student in their learning journey.
- **Evidence of learning**-Evidence of learning will be used to determine what a student knows, as well as provide specific information on targeted areas that a student may need extra additional time and support. This extra time and support will be provided during the school day. Evidence of Learning may include: a lab demonstration, a project, an oral or written assessment, or an essay.

What this means for your student is a shift in the way we ALL look at a student's learning. For students who achieve their goal at a quicker pace, we will provide additional deeper, learning opportunities to enrich their educational experience. Some students will require additional time and support until they learn the essential skills. This is okay; this is learning! We understand that every student does not learn in the same way or at the same pace. We promise to work together with ALL students to help them reach those essential goals and push beyond to provide a rich learning experience for all students.

Please reach out to your child's teacher if you have any questions about the learning in that class.