**STANDARDS BASED GRADING**

This letter is being sent home to inform you of the grading policy that I will be using to assess your student in my 7th grade science class. Most parents have experienced the traditional A-B-C-D-F grading system. The system that I will be using this year to assess your student’s progress is a system that focuses on the different standards 7th grade science students are expected to show proficiency on. On your student’s online gradebook you will not see the traditional list of assignments that are assigned point values. Instead you will see a list of standards that are scored on a coded scale. Each code on the scale refers to a level of understanding on that particular standard. Those standards have been taken from Cedar Rapid’s 7th Grade Science Student Learning Expectations and from Project 2061 from the American Association of the Advancement of Science. They are available on my website. The students will be assessed on the different standards throughout the year and they will be expected to retain their learning of those standards as they will continually be re-assessed. The grade book will reflect the student’s current level of understanding. Please be aware that the system that I am using to assess your students will cause your student’s grade to fluctuate throughout the trimester. As your student becomes more proficient, their grade will go up. The student’s letter grade will not be final until the end of the trimester. Please examine the individual standards that your student is being assessed on using the following numeric scale:

NT = Not Tested or a “zero” represents that your student was not assessed.

BE = 1, Beginning Progress (65%) - A “one” represents that your student was assessed on the standard and demonstrated a beginning level of understanding but is still making **key errors** in the process that needs to be used to demonstrate proficiency.

AIP = 1.5, Approaching in Progress (70%)

IP = 2, In Progress (75%) - A “two” represents that your student was assessed on the standard and demonstrated “**proficient**” understanding by solving the problem with limited or no error.

AE = 2.5, Approaching Expectation (80%)

EXP = 3, at Expectation (85%) - A “three” represents that your student was assessed on the standard and demonstrated “**proficient**” understanding of that particular standard.

AEE = 3.5, Approaching Exceeding Expectation (92%)

EE = 4, Exceeding Expectation (100%)

This system will be new to both you and your child. I spend a significant amount of time answering questions for the students in hopes they will understand why I grade like this. I have found that once the students understand the system, parents also understand the system better. To help with the transition, I will have the students bring home their binders and have a conference with you about their understanding of the standard we are learning and standards based grading. During this time, please ask your child questions and then have them let me know if there are questions they were unable to answer.

One other common question I get from parents is about retakes. If your student does not demonstrate an acceptable level of understanding on any standard they will be asked or have the opportunity to be reassessed *after* meeting with the teacher and/or a student tutor before/after school or during 7th hour RTI. The driving factor of this system is to create a focus on learning.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with questions or concerns regarding your student’s grade or the grading system that is in place.

Sincerely,

Jessica Vasquez

7th Grade Science

319-558-1407

Please sign and date this letter on the lines below acknowledging that you have read with your student and understand the grading system that is being used for 7th grade science.

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Parent Name Student Name

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Parent Signature Date