



NAPERVILLE NORTH H. S.

899 North Mill St, Naperville, IL 60563-8998

630 420-6480 FAX: 630 420-4255

www.naperville203.org

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Dear Physics Parents or Guardians:

We welcome your student to this year's class and would like to take a moment to explain some changes to the way this course will be organized this year. Based on a district-wide initiative and pilots last year at NNHS, we are integrating the use of standards-based grading (SBG). Different from traditional grading systems, SBG is a philosophy that prioritizes students' learning and understanding and is structured such that the grade reflects their final understanding of the learning targets. These learning targets are clearly defined, and students track their understanding of these targets and have multiple opportunities to demonstrate their understanding.

Throughout the course, students will be given opportunities to explore, question, and learn and then demonstrate their understanding of the various objectives. During these learning activities, students will focus on developing their understanding without fear of making mistakes. For learning activities, feedback will be given in lieu of traditional grades. Students will demonstrate their understanding with lab practicums and reports, weekly targets quizzes, and unit exams and these summative assessments will be graded on a 4-point scale. At the end of the semester, a semester grade will be determined as described in the course syllabus. We strongly urge you to read the course syllabus, particularly the sections titled Learning Activities and Summative Assessments, and Grading for more details.

We are excited about SBG since it is more in-line with the District 203 mission: to educate students to be self-directed learners, collaborative workers, complex thinkers, quality producers and community contributors. As a system, the self-directedness of SBG is also more compatible with students' college study and future workplace environments. As this is our first time implementing SBG, we may need to make changes to refine the program throughout the year.

We also strongly encourage you to attend the September 1st Open House. However, as always, we are all reachable via e-mail or school voicemail for any questions you may have. We look forward to a productive school year with your student.

Best Regards,