



# NAPERVILLE NORTH H. S.

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Dear Enriched 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. The course is the same as it has been in years past, except for the grading process.

Based on district-wide discussions, this year we are piloting the use of standards-based grading in all Enriched Physics classes. Standards-based grading, or mastery learning, has already been piloted in other courses at NNHS and is an opportunity for your student to demonstrate their mastery of the same objectives we have always taught, with an emphasis on learning and understanding rather than grades.

During the course, students will be given opportunities to develop understanding and then demonstrate their mastery of the various objectives, with detailed feedback from teachers being a major component of the learning process. These opportunities will come mainly in the form of experiments and exams. Feedback will be given in lieu of letter grades, including whether or not the student has shown mastery of a particular standard. At the end of the semester, a semester grade will be given as determined by the percentage of the standards that your student has mastered. I strongly urge you to read the attached copy of the course syllabus, particularly the sections titled *Learning Activities and Summative Assessments*, and *Grading*. A copy is also available online. Also, throughout the course you will be able to check your student's mastery progress via a web site (please refer to the attached "SnapGrades" document).

We are excited about standards-based grading 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 a pilot, we may need to make changes to refine the program throughout the semester.

We also strongly encourage you to attend the September 2<sup>nd</sup> Open House. However, as always, we are both 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,