



Lincoln Savage Middle School

8551 New Hope Road • Grants Pass, Oregon 97533 • Phone (541)-862-2171 • Fax (541) 862-2713

Damian Crowson, Principal
Kirk Baumann, Assistant Principal
Sheri Larson, Office Manager

Dear Lincoln Savage Families:

Lincoln Savage Middle School, along with the entire Three Rivers School District, has restructured our curricular offerings and grading systems from Kindergarten through the 12th grade. Our staff has undergone extensive professional development and collaboration during the 2011-2012 school years to ensure an in depth understanding and smooth transition to the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). The CCSS are a set of shared K-12 learning expectations for students in English-Language Arts and Mathematics. These standards provide a consistent, clear understanding of what students are expected to learn in K-12 math and English-Language Arts. The standards are designed to be robust and relevant to the real world, reflecting the knowledge and skills that our young people need for success in college and careers. The CCSS supports the college and career ready expectations of Oregon's new high school graduation requirements.

Our first mid-term reports were just released and we are pleasantly surprised with the efforts the students and staff have made with the new expectations and changes to Proficiency based learning. We had less than a 10% increase in substandard grades (F's and I's). We feel our interventions and support classes have helped in the transition to CCSS and Proficiency Based Learning (PBL). This data allows us to maximize our resources to best meet the needs of the students. Between now and November 30th we will be focusing our efforts on getting all students to meet expectations in all classes.

This is the first year that all core academic classes within the school will be grading on a Proficiency Based Learning model (PBL). Report card grades are determined by what a student knows and can do rather than reporting on absences, tardiness or extra credit, which traditionally factors into grading. Students are told what they are expected to learn and how assignments or lessons help meet those goals. In the PBL model, more emphasis is placed on learning.

Below is another look at what Proficiency Based Learning (PBL) is and how these changes affect your son/daughter. If you have any questions regarding the change to the Common Core Standards or our Proficiency Based Learning model please feel free to contact me (541-862-2171).

Definitions

- **Proficiency Based Learning (PBL):**
 - This term refers to a system in which teachers assess and grade students based on content specific knowledge and skills with less emphasis being placed upon behavior, tardiness or extra credit because those elements do not reflect a student's knowledge.
- **Proficiencies:**
 - Mastery of specific knowledge and skills demonstrated by consistently superior performance, measured against established standards.
- **Core Classes:**
 - Math, Language Arts, Science and Social Studies
- **Content knowledge and Skills:**
 - These are the skills most commonly associated with the assessed state standards
 - See further clarification through examples below under “grades”
- **Participation/Citizenship Skills:**
 - These skills are those that help to develop the content knowledge and skills and are more associated with being a good citizen (being on time, respectful, safe and responsible).
 - See further clarification through examples below under “grades”
- **Summative Assessments:**
 - This assessment summarizes the development of learners at a particular time, usually at the end of a unit (i.e. unit tests).
- **Formative Assessments:**
 - This is any assessment that informs the teacher and the students where the learner currently is in the learning process and can take place at any time during the unit so that the teacher/students can plan accordingly (i.e., quizzes).
 - Formative assessment is more valuable for day-to-day teaching when it is used to adapt the teaching to meet students’ needs. Formative assessment helps teachers to monitor their students’ progress and to modify the instruction accordingly. It also helps students to monitor their own progress as they get feedback from their peers and the teacher. Students also find opportunity to revise and refine their thinking by means of formative assessment.

(Summative assessment is characterized as assessment of learning and is contrasted with formative assessment, which is assessment for learning.

Grades

Academic grades under the Proficiency Based Learning model will reflect a student’s mastery of knowledge and skills for a given subject according to state standards, allowing teachers to be more objective in their grading practices. Therefore, extra credit will not be provided. Academic grades are calculated based on a weighted scale where 80% reflects content knowledge and skills, and 20% reflects participation/citizenship. The following criteria will be used to define hard and soft skills.

Content Knowledge and Skills (80%)

- Tests and quizzes on knowledge and skills, state standards, and proficiencies (Summative and formative assessments)
- Alternative assessments (verbal, demonstration of skills or understanding, etc.)
- Writing samples/inquiry labs/math problem solving (state samples)
- Projects (if the teacher knows it is the student’s own work or when an individual student’s contribution can be assessed based on their understanding of the knowledge and skills in the standards.)

Participation/Citizenship Skills (20%)

- Effort in learning, respect, participation, preparedness, responsibility, creativity
- Openers/Warm-ups
- Homework
- Class Work

Reassessment

Students may be given opportunities to retake assessments that they fail in order to demonstrate proficiency, provided that they are making adequate progress toward proficiency. The assessment grade will NOT be the average of all the assessments. The highest grade for each assessment will be awarded to the student.

In order to demonstrate proficiency, students must score a 70% or better on the assessment, which is equivalent to a "C" average. "D" grades will no longer be awarded to student work. If an assessment is below a 70%, they have the opportunity to retake the assessment and get additional support from the teacher or building support services. If all, or most, assessments are failed within a grading period, a student may earn an "F". However, if a student is making adequate progress toward proficiency and utilizing resources available, they will be assigned an Incomplete and will have 10 school days to demonstrate proficiency on missing/incomplete assessments at the end of the trimester. Third trimester incompletes will result in failures.

(Below is a comparison of the new PBL grading scale compared to the traditional grading scale)

<u>Proficiency Based Learning</u> <u>Grading Scale</u>	<u>Traditional</u> <u>Grading Scale</u>
A (Master)	A
B (Approaching Master)	B
C (Proficient)	C
I (Incomplete)	D
F	F

(Below is a graphic illustration of a blank rubric for assessing the level of knowledge and skills demonstrated by a student.)

Three Rivers School District: Standards
--

Standard:	Developing (I)	Proficient (C)	Approaching Master (B)	Master (A)

Student Support

A variety of support will be provided to students to help them reach a proficiency level within their classes. The following programs and opportunities are available for them to take advantage of in order to help them be academically successful.

- Regularly scheduled academic support within the school day
- Increased academic support opportunities
- Increased intervention classes
- Extended learning opportunities (ELO)
- After School Tutoring
 - Tuesday/Thursday 3:30-5:25 (bus transportation available)

We feel very fortunate to have this staff and a high level of support at Lincoln Savage Middle School this year. The transition to CCSS and PBL has gone very smoothly and we look forward to working with students and parents in getting all students to reach their maximum academic potential. Again, if you have any questions regarding the change to the Common Core Standards or our Proficiency Based Learning model please feel free to contact me (541-862-2171).

Sincerely,

Damian Crowson
Principal
Lincoln Savage Middle School



Proficiency Based Learning in TRSD: Frequently Asked Questions

(1) How is Proficiency Based Learning (PBL) different than traditional teaching/learning?

Proficiency Based Learning (PBL) is a method of teaching specific knowledge and skills within the standards and holding students accountable to become proficient in these standards in order to receive credit for the class. It is different from traditional teaching/learning in that the majority of the grade (80%) reflects the knowledge and the skills that the student is able to learn throughout the course, rather than a reflection of getting their ability to turn homework in on time, completing all assignments and being on time to class. These things are still very important, but only make up 20% of the student's grade in PBL.

(2) What does Proficiency Based Learning look like in the classroom?

PBL in the classroom is very similar to what you would see in a traditional classroom—the difference lies in the relevance and execution of the assessments (tests/quizzes). Students are ignited by the fact that every classroom activity and homework assignment is preparation for demonstrating their proficiency in a particular standard. In addition, students must demonstrate their proficiency in the standards in order to pass the class—usually students in these classrooms are more prepared, more directed and have more personal responsibility than in class where they are allowed to fail several assessments and yet meet the minimal point requirements to pass the class. Teachers can show their creativity in designing activities and assessments, and students can demonstrate proficiency in the standards in a variety of ways.

(3) How does Proficiency Based Learning work in the classroom?

Teachers develop a rubric to differentiate levels of proficiency in the standard - they create a road map for success so that students have a clear target to reach for. Using the rubric as a guide, teachers use their curriculum to help students prepare to demonstrate proficiency in specific teacher identified standards. Preparation comes in the form of classroom activities, homework, the use of technology, labs, formative assessments, projects, research papers. Students will be monitored in their progress in achieving proficiency and the teachers will adjust their instruction accordingly. Basically, it is about good teaching strategies and varied forms of projects and assessments.

(4) Why is Proficiency Based Learning right for TRSD?

There are many benefits to PBL; however, our focus in TRSD will be in the form of student empowerment. We will set high expectations for all of our students—from students with I.E.P's to students taking AP classes. Past experience illustrates the need to expect students to be in charge of their own education. When they are, they become more personally invested in the outcome; they need to set appointments, manage their time, make decisions and reflect on which learning strategies have been successful and which ones have not. This will bring relevance into everything they learn. Students with I.E.P's will benefit because the curriculum is clear and accessible. Traditional 'A' students who are used to the accumulation of points rather than the accumulation of knowledge are now challenged in a way that prepares them for the rigors of higher learning in post-secondary institutions or the work force.

Sport Physicals

Reminder to students: if you are interested in participating in either girl's basketball or wrestling; please make sure you have a current physical on file prior to January 7, 2013, the start of the seasons.

Cross Country

Congratulations to our girls cross country team. They are: Zaruba Anderson, Reilly Frerk, Becky Ottosen, Mary Backes, Lindsey Northrup, Zymri Anderson and Maddison O'Brien. They are the **District CHAMPS** for the 2nd year in a row!

Dates to Remember

Daylight Savings Time.....	Nov. 04
Booster Club Mtg.....	Nov. 07
Holiday (no school).....	Nov. 12
Furlough (no school).....	Nov. 19
Furlough (no school).....	Nov. 20
Furlough (no school).....	Nov. 21
Thanksgiving (no school).....	Nov. 22
Vacation Day (no school).....	Nov. 23
Site Council.....	Nov. 26
End of 1 st Trimester.....	Nov. 30
Clerical Day (no school).....	Dec. 03
Christmas Break.....	Dec. 24~Jan. 04

Canned Food Drive

Lincoln Savage Middle School is having our annual Canned Food Drive from November 5 ~ 15, 2012. Please send nonperishable items with your child to school. They will need to turn their food into their first period teacher. All classes will be competing for a "pancake breakfast" party. If you have any questions please contact the school at 862-2171 and ask for Nancy Abruzzini. All proceeds will help local families within our community. Thank you for your support.



After School Tutoring

After school, tutoring is now available every Tuesday & Thursday from 3:10 ~ 5:15 p.m. It's free! It's available and there is an activity bus that your child is able to ride home. To stay after school for tutoring every child must have a permission slip on file. You can find a form in the front office or on the LSMS web site.

LOST AND FOUND

OUR LOST AND FOUND IS OVER FLOWING. IF YOUR CHILD IS MISSING ANYTHING PLEASE CHECK OUT THE LOST AND FOUND LOCATED IN THE FRONT COURTYARD. ITEMS NOT CLAIMED WILL BE DONATED TO CHARITY DURING THE WEEK OF THE THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY.

IMMUNIZATIONS

Attention Parents/Guardians of all 7th & 8th graders. Oregon law requires that all children attending public school are up-to-date on their immunizations (shots) unless they have a medical or religious exemption on file. The 7th & 8th graders are due for a Tdap (if their last dose of tetanus was given 5 or more years ago). Please check with your doctor or the Josephine County Health Department located at 715 NW Dimmick St., Ph. # 541-474-5325. They are open for immunizations Monday through Thursday from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm and 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm. After your child has received the required vaccinations send a copy to the LSMS Office. If you have any questions, call Debbie @ LSMS 541-862-2171.

From the Advocate

We would like to help some of our families during the holiday season this year. If you are in need, or you are interested in donating or helping with these efforts, please contact Nancy Abruzzini, Family Advocate @ 541-862-2171. Thank you.

Medications

Students that take medication during the day are required to keep all medication in the office. A parent is required to fill out a Medication Permission form so we know how to administer your child's medication. Please send all medication (over the counter medication included) in the original container. If you have any questions please contact Mrs. Commons in the front office at 541-862-2171.

BOOSTER CLUB

WE WOULD LIKE TO INVITE YOU TO ATTEND THE NEXT BOOSTER CLUB MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, AT 3:30 IN THE LIBRARY.

Recycling

We recycle!! Please bring empty ink cartridges to the front office. We also collect box tops. If you have box tops you would like to donate please send them to the office.

Activity Day

November 30 is our end of the trimester activity day for students that qualify. To qualify students must have good behavior, good attendance and no fines owed to the cafeteria, library or office.

The cost for this activity is \$7.00. This will pay for the movie and help with the cost of busing. The theater is also offering a 24oz popcorn and 12oz drink combo for \$2.00. The students will have a choice of two movies. At this time the choices are the Life of Pi and Rise of the Guardians (they are subject to change). Please see below for ratings and a summary of what the movies are about. A permission slip will be coming home, if your child qualifies, within the next couple of weeks.

Rise of the Guardians

MPAA Rating: PG (for thematic elements and some mildly scary action)

Official Website: www.RiseoftheGuardians.com

Plot Summary: "Rise of the Guardians" is an epic and magical adventure that tells the story of Santa Claus, the Easter Bunny, the Tooth Fairy, the Sandman, and Jack Frost - legendary characters with previously unknown extraordinary abilities. When an evil spirit known as Pitch lays down the gauntlet to take over the world, the immortal Guardians must join forces to protect the hopes, beliefs and imagination of children everywhere.

Life of Pi

MPAA Rating: PG (for emotional thematic content throughout, and some scary action sequences and peril)

Official Website: www.LifeofPimovie.com

Plot Summary: Director Ang Lee ("Brokeback Mountain," "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon") creates a groundbreaking movie event about a young man who survives a tragic disaster at sea and is hurtled into an epic journey of adventure and discovery. While marooned on a lifeboat, he forms an amazing and unexpected connection with the ship's only other survivor -- a fearsome Bengal tiger.

Thank you

We would like to thank the following coaches for their time and energy volunteering to make the volleyball and football experience memorable for our students....Tami Krause, Tracy Leenknecht, Kyle Gaines, Kelly Lawson, Don Carter, Jeff Jarvis and Randall Green.

ART ALONG THE ROGUE

This year we had a Lincoln Savage student participate in Art Along the Rogue. McKenzie Orton and Janelle Hurley drew this beautiful picture of our Tiger mascot. Way to go McKenzie & Janelle!!!!



Go Tigers!!