

Journeys School Assessment Information (Grades 6-12)

Updated December 2011

Philosophy: Learning goals are clearly established for each class. Although each student must demonstrate competency in these learning goals, the assessment expectations vary for each individual. Depending on the current performance and abilities of the student, a teacher will assess at different levels for each goal. These levels reflect depth of thought, analysis of ideas and demonstration of critical thinking rather than recollection of facts.

Principles:

- Feedback should provide a clear picture of a student's progress and how a student might improve
- Feedback should encourage students to improve.
- Assessment should be formative in nature to ensure that students are meeting learning goals throughout an assessment period.

Definitions:

- **Assessment:** Any method to allow a student to demonstrate knowledge concerning a particular learning goal for a class. This could be in the form of a test, project, quiz, presentations, etc.
- **Rubric:** A table that describes the criteria that are needed in order to achieve a particular score.
- **Score:** The numerical score (0-4.0) that is assigned to each assessment. A score of 2.0 or higher indicates that the student has demonstrated basic competency on the learning goals. Any assessment that receives a score of lower than 2.0 must be revised or redone.
- **Assessment Category:** Assignments can be graded in three different categories: content, process, and product. Each is described below.

Expectations:

- At least six formal assessments will occur each trimester (9 per semester) in each class.
- All assessments will be accompanied by a rubric.
- All assessments will be returned to students within one week except for larger papers and projects which will be returned within two weeks.
- Assessments will provide feedback on how a student can demonstrate competency of the learning goals being assessed.
- When a student does not demonstrate competency, the student and teacher will work together to help the student succeed.

Assessment categories: Assessment categories are weighted differently in each academic discipline based on the skills and knowledge taught.

- **Content:** What knowledge or skill is being assessed? (information, facts, ideas)

- **Process:** In what manner is the knowledge or skill acquired? (effort, process of learning, following directions, adherence to timelines, leadership, collaboration, participation, engagement)
- **Product:** How is the knowledge or skill presented? (format, grammar, spelling, clarity, organization, presentation, speaking skills)

Scoring on assignments: Each assignment is scored from 0.0 to 4.0 in one or more of the following assessment categories: content, process and product. Scores are based on clear rubrics that are assigned to the class. At the end of the quarter, trimester or semester, the three category averages are combined together to create one score. This score, along with a translated letter grade, will appear on the transcript. Report cards show all three category averages plus the overall average. Higher scores are based on higher levels of understanding. A 2.0 indicates basic understanding, a 3.0 indicates applied understanding and a 4.0 indicates extended understanding.

Report Cards: Trimester/semester reports are available electronically 1-2 weeks after the end of the trimester/semester. Reports include comments for every class and assessment scores in the three categories (content, process, product) as well as an average of the three assessment scores.

Transcripts: Transcripts are available to high school students upon request. Transcripts show the average score and the translated letter grade for each class.

Credit: Credit is received in a class when the average score is 2.0 or above for any given trimester (see academic policies in student/family handbook for more details).

Late assignments: The school has high expectations for completing work and taking responsibility for one's learning. Given that, a score of zero or one is received in process for any assignment that is not turned in at the appropriate time. Grades 6 – 9 will receive a one as a consequence, while students in grades 10-12 will receive a zero. If the work is not turned in during the next academic class, a zero or one (depending on grade level), will be recorded for all three assessment categories (content, process, product). More details and exceptions can be found in the student/family handbook.

Academic expectations: If a student receives a score lower than a 2.0 on any assessment, the following process will be followed during the week subsequent to when the score was received:

- The student, parent, and advisor are notified via email or phone by the teacher.
- The student and teacher work together to help the student demonstrate competency on the learning goal(s) being assessed.
- The teacher notifies the student, parent and advisee when competency is demonstrated.

Academic support: Any student who scores less than a 2.0 in any assessment category for a trimester is placed on academic support. This process is outlined in the student/family handbook.

Academic Probation: A score of less than 2 in any assessment category will result in academic probation and a parent conference.

Online access to scores: All parents and students can access up-to-date information on scores, recent trimester reports, and attendance by logging in to info.tetonscience.org/nc.

Score translation scale: It is widely accepted in the educational community that any assignment of grades is arbitrary because decisions are being made about what number is equal to what letter. Letter grades are shown only on transcripts. The following translation scale is provided for the purpose of a “common” language for students transferring to other schools and applying to colleges/universities.

Journey School Average	Grade
3.7 – 4.0	A+
3.4 – 3.6	A
3.2 – 3.3	A-
3.0 – 3.1	B+
2.8 – 2.9	B
2.6 – 2.7	B-
2.4 – 2.5	C+
2.2 - 2.3	C
2.0 – 2.1	C-
1.8- 1.9	D
0.0-1.7	F

W	Student has withdrawn from the course. No credit received.
S	Student has completed all course requirements for a non-scored class. Credit earned for the class.
U	Student has not completed all course requirements for a non-scored class. No credit earned for the class.
IP	Student is satisfactorily working towards the expected outcome.
IN C	Student has not completed coursework due to medical or family emergencies. Credit received on course