

# What is Proficiency-Based Grading?

There are three elements of proficiency-based grades:

- 1) Connected to clearly defined learning objectives
- 2) Separate academic achievement from behaviors
- 3) Focused on learning progress.

**Principle 1:** Grades clearly communicate what students know and are able to do in each course.

**Practice 1:** PCS reports on student mastery of specific skills and concepts within a course (called “course standards”).

**Principle 2:** Students have multiple opportunities to show what they know and can do.

**Practice 2:** PCS ask students to build a body of work to demonstrate their mastery of each course standard.

**Principle 3:** PCS supports students in acquiring all of the essential knowledge and skills in a course.

**Practice 3:** To earn credit, all of the course standards must be met.

**Principle 4:** Academic knowledge and work habits are both important to acquire for college and life.

**Practice 4:** PCS students receive both academic grades (based on course standards) as well as credit for their time management and communication grades (Weekly Progress Report) .

**Principle 5:** If students are working hard to meet standards, they deserve more time and support to learn the material.

**Practice 5:** PCS grading policy is aligned with Butternut High School, students receive additional time and support to meet course standards without penalty if they are demonstrating an honest effort.

**Principle 6:** All students should have the opportunity to excel.

**Practice 6:** Advanced placement courses is an option for all PCS students in many courses.

**Principle 7:** Regular communication with families about student progress supports deeper learning.

**Practice 7:** PCS reports progress at the beginning of each week by sending a progress report home to be signed by parents. PCS sends home quarterly report cards and participates in the fall conferences. Powerschool, our online grade book, is updated daily and is always open to students and parents.

**Principle 8:** Learning cannot be averaged: students need time to practice and learn from mistakes.

**Practice 8:** PCS determine grades based on trends, and takes more recent performance into account. Semester grades reflect a student’s current level of achievement.