

# HIGHLAND PARK JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL



## COURSE OUTLINES AND OUTCOMES-BASED ASSESSMENT PRACTICES

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to a new school year! These booklets have been put together to provide you with information about what your child is covering in every subject. They include all themes covered, teacher contact and extra help times as well as other important information. We have included a lot of information on our assessment practices and how your child will be assessed on their learning throughout the year and how it will all be reported.

This year at Highland Park Junior High, teachers will be using an outcomes-based approach to assessment. Instead of assigning an overall mark or percentage to *each assignment*, student feedback will be broken down by each of the big ideas or concepts being assessed. Although learning will still be summarized and reported in percentages on report cards, the focus throughout the learning process will be on helping students answer these 3 questions: Where am I going? Where am I now? How do I get there? Teachers will focus on giving feedback that helps students identify their own strengths and areas for continued improvement and using the feedback from students to guide their instruction.

Students will continue to be assessed in multiple ways, using a variety of assessment tools (eg. Projects, tests, journals, assignments, observations, portfolios, etc.). Feedback will be more descriptive (comments, conversations, rubrics with the criteria highlighted) and sometimes coded using the provincial achievement level codes 1-4 (please see attached achievement levels). Students will be given multiple opportunities to discuss and use the feedback and improve their learning before learning is summarized as a percentage grade on the report card.

### Why use outcomes-based assessment practices?

*Research on outcomes-based assessment shows that refocusing students on the learning goals, the quality of their work and how to improve increases student engagement and motivation, keeps learning and teaching connected to the curriculum, and leads to higher student achievement.*

### What does outcomes-based assessment look like in the classroom?

- *Learning goals are clearly broken down into the skills required to be successful.*
- *Feedback outlines what students are doing well and next steps in learning.*
- *Achievement level codes (1-4) and comments are used on assignments to indicate the level of understanding and the skills demonstrated.*
- *Teachers have the option of assigning a “+” if the student has exceeded one level but has not quite reached the other, for example, 3+.*
- *Students are expected to take an active role in their learning: clarify any misunderstandings, set learning goals, discuss their learning, practice skills and use the feedback provided.*
- *The focus is on the learning and not just the task.*

<b>Achievement Level</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>4</b>	In-depth knowledge and understanding of content and concepts. Able to extend the application of related skills.
<b>3+</b>	Competent +
<b>3</b>	Competent knowledge and understanding of content and concepts. Appropriate application of the related skills.
<b>2+</b>	Developing +
<b>2</b>	Developing knowledge and understanding of content and concepts. Developing in the application of the related skills.
<b>1+</b>	Limited +
<b>1</b>	Limited knowledge and understanding of content and concepts. Limited application of related skills.

### What will the report card look like?

*The report card will look exactly the same. Outcomes-based assessment focuses on the learning process, achievement will still be summarized into a percentage grade for the report card and the comments will continue to highlight the areas of strength, areas for improvement and suggestions for next steps.*

### Will teachers in Grades 7 and 8 report by strand for English Language Arts and Mathematics?

Yes, teachers will continue to report on student achievement by strand with a percentage grade or N/A for not applicable in Mathematics strand reporting. (Grade 9s do not report by strand)

### Do teachers need to write a comment for each strand?

No, the report card comment for these courses should remain one overall comment with a strength, area for improvement and a suggestion for next steps coming from whatever strands are most appropriate, based on the evidence of learning at the time of reporting.

### Will "IP" continue to show on the Student-Parent Portal in place of an in progress mark in Grades 7 and 8?

Yes, IP will continue to display on the student parent portal. Teachers will see an in-progress mark in their gradebook.

### Will students in Grades 7 and 8 receive a 'final grade' at the end of the course?

No, there is no "final grade" in Grades 7 and 8.

### What will communication about my child's learning look like?

- Outcomes-based assessment gives specific feedback by concept or skill rather than an overall summary by task or question
- Assignments will not have overall percentage marks or points, but rather comments or achievement levels (1-4) to indicate the level of understanding for each concept being assessed. Highlighted rubrics with the expected criteria may also be used.
- In the student/parent portal of PowerSchool you will see the following:

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Course Information		
Course	Teacher	In-Progress Mark
ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 8	Maclsaac, Nicole	IP


Assessment and Evaluation Plan					
Individual Assessment Information					
Due Date	Category	Assessment	Codes	Mark	Comment
09/15/2015	Short Story Unit	Newspaper Analysis: Inverted Pyramid			
09/15/2015	Short Story Unit	Newspaper Article: Inverted Pyramid			

Showing 1 to 2 of 2 entries

Legend

- Collected
- Late
- Missing
- Student is exempt from this assessment
- Assessment is not included in final grade

▼ **Course Information**

Course	Teacher	In-Progress Mark 
ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 8	Maclsaac, Nicole	IP

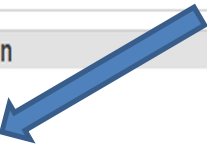
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▼ **Assessment and Evaluation Plan**

General Curriculum Outcomes:

Throughout the course of the year, students will be evaluated on their performance in relation to Specific Curriculum Outcomes that fall under the following General Curriculum Outcomes:

GCO1: Students will be expected to speak and listen to explore, extend, clarify, and reflect on their thoughts, ideas,



**1. Title of the assignment** – You can click on the title for more information, such as, details of outcomes, the skills being addressed and the level of achievement.

**2. Code** – This tells you whether the assignment has been collected, is missing, or late and may also have comments. (You can also look at the legend below the assessment information)

**3. Category** – The category tells you what unit they assignment is in. For example, the unit is Short Story but the assignment is Newspaper Analysis

**4. Assessment and Evaluation Plan** – This is an overview on the entire course for the year with all sorts of information.

\*If you don't have your PowerSchool login, we can get it for you in the office.\*

Staff are excited about the learning opportunities with your child this year and look forward to partnering with you to support student success. If at any time you have questions or concerns about your child's learning, please do not hesitate to contact the school 902-493-5124. We are here to help your child be successful and have a happy year!

