

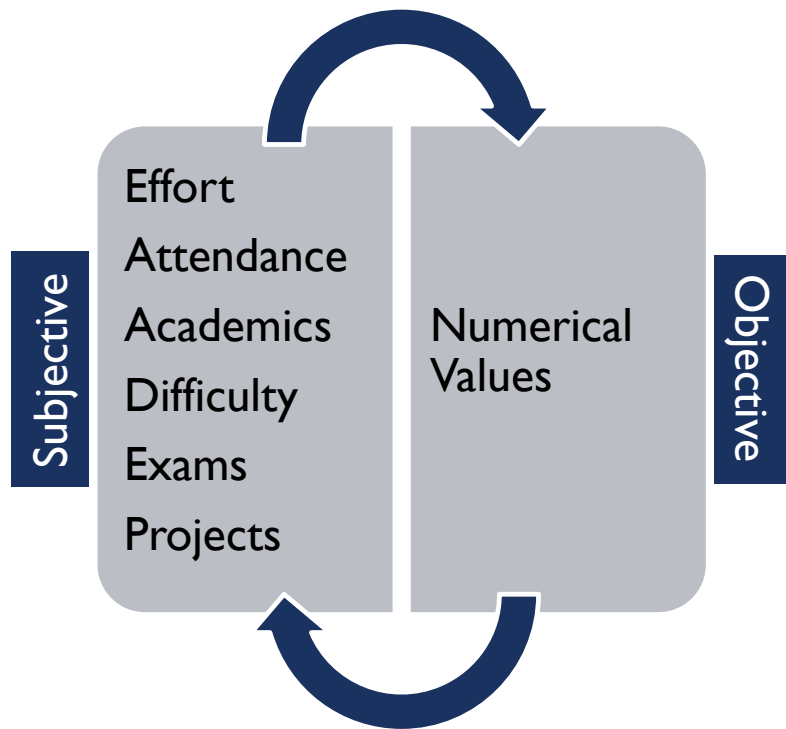


SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

SYOSSET CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT – OCTOBER 2017

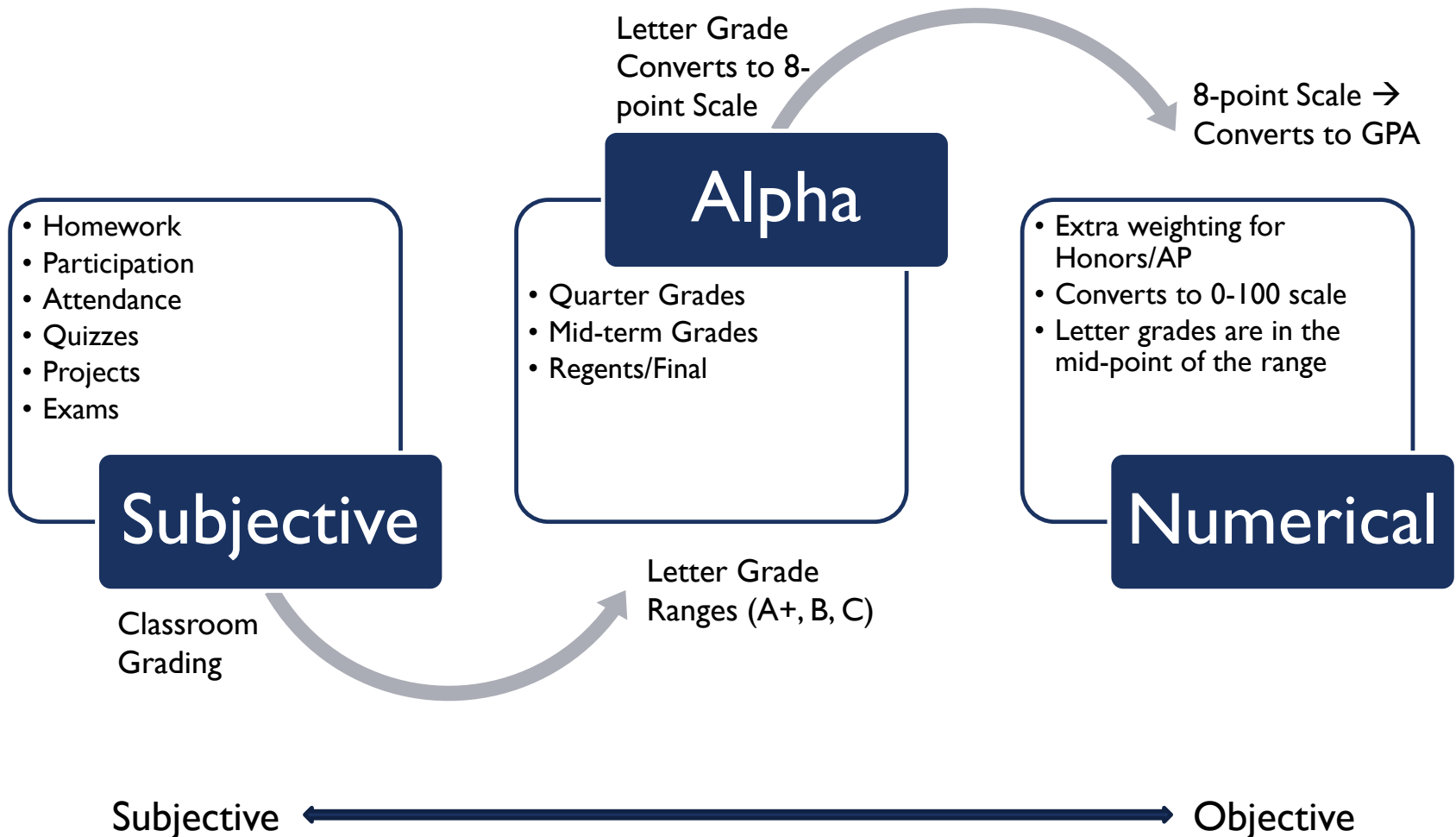


GRADING SYSTEMS



- Grading systems convert a whole host of subjective factors into a single numerical factor.
- Each conversion requires subjective judgements, on which (by definition) people may not agree.

ALPHA USES A RANGE TO CONVERT SUBJECTIVE ASSESSMENTS TO NUMERICAL GRADES



Course Grade	Alpha	Points	Course Grade	Alpha	Course Points	Points	Average of all Courses	Conversion to GPA
100.00	A+	8	100.00	A+	9	8	8.5	100.0
94.50			94.50				8.1	98.0
94.49	A	7	94.49	A	8	7	8.0	97.5
89.50			89.50				7.9	97.0
89.49			89.49				7.4	94.5
84.50	B+	6	84.50	B+	7	6	7.3	94.0
84.49			84.49				7.0	92.5
79.50			79.50				6.9	92.0
79.49	B	5	79.49	B	6	5	6.4	89.5
74.50			74.50				6.3	89.0
74.49			74.49				6.0	87.5
69.50	C+	4	69.50	C+	5	4	5.9	87.0
69.49			69.49				5.4	84.5
64.50			64.50				5.3	84.0
64.49	C	3	64.49	C	4	3	5.0	82.5
0.00			0.00				4.9	82.0
							4.4	79.5
	D	2		D	3	2	4.3	79.0
							4.0	77.5
							3.9	77.0
	F	0		F	0	0	3.4	74.5
							3.3	74.0
							3.0	72.5
							2.9	72.0
							2.4	69.5
							2.3	69.0
							2.0	67.5
							1.9	67.0
							1.4	64.5
							1.3	64.0
							0.0	55.0

General

Honors/AP

GPA Calculation

**SYOSSET'S
RANGES
HELP
STUDENTS**

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

- Advantages of “Alpha”
 - Evens out variations among individual teachers’ grading practices by converting them to ranges.
 - Decreases the influence of an individual teacher on overall GPA, insulating classroom grading practices from inflationary pressures.
 - “Rounds up” scores at the low end of the range.
- Colleges calculate their own versions of GPAs
 - Students are not currently disadvantaged.
 - Changing GPA calculation at Syosset will not create advantages.

GRADING RECOMMENDATIONS

1. GPA Calculation – No change recommended.
 - Any change that is not simply inflationary would create winners and losers,
 - The current system encourages students to challenge themselves by protecting their GPA from the potential negative impact of taking a more difficult course.
 - Taking more difficult courses, in turn, has a very favorable impact on the college admissions process.
2. Differentiate Transcript from Academic Record.
 - a. Show only passing score for retaken Regents on the transcript.
 - b. Recalculate course grade if < year (i.e. August or January Regents administration).

AIS / RTI / MTSS UNIVERSAL SCREEN

- Districts required to move from AIS (Academic Intervention Services) to RTI model (Response to Intervention). <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/docs/ais-rti.html>
 - Being renamed MTSS (Multi-tiered system of supports).
- Requires a “universal screening instrument” – i.e. a test to ensure that additional supports are provided with “early warning” signs of struggle.
 - Current screening instruments (AIMSWeb, Cogats, NYS Tests) are not aligned to our work.
- District special education subcommittee evaluated several products and recommended piloting NWEA’s Measures of Academic Progress assessment
 - Computer-based/computer-adaptive
 - Pilot at different grade levels
 - Evaluate results of the pilot

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

- Challenges:
 - Some teachers have more students than “slots” on both nights; can’t use scheduling software;
 - Some conversations exceed the 5 minute slot, leading to long lines;
 - Broken up by A-L and M-Z last names, but many more parents show up on the first night than the second.
- Immediate Improvements:
 - PAL kids knocking on the doors every 5 minutes;
 - Better parking/lighting options;
 - Teachers have always returned calls from parents who were unable to see them.
- Long Term Exploration:
 - Create additional afternoon session(s) by dismissing SHS early?
 - Move Spring night to the Fall? How would we address second semester courses?

PHASE II CONSTRUCTION FEEDBACK

- Meeting held 10/11/17; About 50 attendees, feedback on 4 “buckets”
- General feedback:
 - Positives
 - Safety improvements welcome.
 - Building repairs/improvements needed.
 - Questions
 - Timeline for approval/construction/completion (summer of '19 or '20)
 - Cost of projects? Impact on taxes?
- Next meetings 10/26 and 11/1 @ South Woods MS – Encourage Turnout!

SUMMARY OF FEEDBACK

Bucket	Building Repair Work & Air Conditioning	Traffic Safety Improvements at High School	Energy Performance Contract	Instructional Spaces (Science Labs, Weight Room, Turf Field)
Positives	Need to improve bathrooms in SHS. A/C now needed.	Better flow; more parking spaces at events; appears safer.	Like the updates. Like the energy savings. Solar now feasible.	Science rooms need work! Like the outdoor bathrooms.
Questions/Concerns	Can cafeterias get A/C too? What about gyms? Fans? Temperature control for epi-pens?	Constriction at exit? Can Town install traffic light? Invite even more cars? New bottlenecks? Safety at Stillwell crossing?	Training to operate? Need for abatement? What is the cost structure? LED lighting may create glare.	Additional technology for science labs? Location of Stadium? Safety of turf? Adequate # of fields?

PILOT PAYMENTS & TAX INCENTIVES

- Nassau County IDA authorized to grant tax incentives to new business developments in the form of PILOTs (Payments in Lieu of Taxes);
- School District has no formal standing to fight or negotiate these payments;
- We have begun attending these meetings and have written critiquing any PILOT that does not meet the following tests:
 - Does the PILOT payment diminish the existing tax revenue from the parcel?
 - Does the PILOT payment keep pace with inflation?
 - Does the PILOT payment account for a fair share of any new debt the District may incur?
- School districts may negotiate an additional payment from the developer above and beyond the PILOT to mitigate these concerns;
- Jericho CSD recently did so with the developer for Milleridge Inn.