****

Assessment Policy

Signal Mountain Middle/High School



Purpose of Assessment

* To inform students of their progress and achievement
* To identify areas of growth for students
* To provide feedback for learning
* To shape instructional practices through the use of data
* To determine needs for differentiation of instruction
* To monitor student progress
* To inform parents of student progress against standards

Principles of Assessment

* Assessments are varied in type and purpose
* Definitions
* **Summative assessment**: Evaluation of student achievement through a culminating activity generally at the end of a course of study.
* **Formative assessment**: Evaluation aimed at identifying the learning needs of students and forming part of the learning process itself. Formative assessments take place throughout a course of study.
* Students should be allowed multiple opportunities to demonstrate their understanding.
* Summative assessments align with the criteria as outlined in subject guides.
* Clear criteria are given to students prior to an assessment.
* Opportunities for reflection are provided.
* Assessments are differentiated and modifications are made when necessary to meet the needs of all students.
* Assessments are aligned with learner outcomes that create high expectations for all students.
* Assessment practices will be reviewed annually to promote continuous program development and improvement.

Assessment and Curriculum

* Assessments drive the curriculum and are aligned with the written and taught curriculum.
* Curriculum and assessments are aligned vertically, building on prior knowledge and skills.
* Assessments are designed to align with course outcomes, state standards, and MYP objectives and criteria.
* Global contexts will provide the context for unit design and will influence unit assessments.
* Teachers will write curriculum and assessments collaboratively and design assessments using the MYP/DP unit planner in ManageBac.
* Curriculum and assessments should reflect the intercultural aspects of the MYP and DP.
* Teachers teaching the same course will use common assessments.

Assessment Practices

* Assessment and evaluation practices and expectations are discussed with students at the beginning of each unit- including the distribution and discussion of rubrics.
* Rubrics are clarified using student-friendly language at the beginning levels.
* Exemplars are made available to students.
* Assessments allow students to reach the highest level of achievement in the rubric descriptor bands.
* MYP Assessments
* MYP objectives and criteria will be used during all years of the program.
* Summative assessments will include the prescribed minimum tasks for each subject area and will each be assessed twice a year.
* The Personal Project will be assessed using MYP Personal Project criteria.
* Teacher will record criterion achievement level scores for the MYP assessment in ManageBac.
* Assessment strategies may include: observation, selected response, open-ended tasks, performance, process journals, portfolios
* Assessment tasks may include: compositions, creations of solutions or products in response to problems, essays, questionnaires, investigations, research, performance, presentations (oral, written, graphic)
* Feedback will be provided in a timely manner. There will be a continuous cycle of presenting a challenge, performance, feedback and improvement.
* Teachers teaching the same courses participate collaboratively in the planning, development, and standardization of assessments where appropriate.
* Authentic assessment tasks will provide opportunities for students to apply learned knowledge and skills to real-life situations.
* Assessments will be differentiated to address a variety of learning styles and modifications will be made for students with identified learning disabilities.
* Assessments will be learner centered, inquiry-based, and authentic in nature.

Reporting to Parents

* Evidence of learning will be shared with parents through conferences and progress reports every three weeks and report cards.
* MYP assessment criteria scores will be reported alongside traditional grades.
* MYP report card reports will display a numerical grade of 1 – 8 for each subject area at the end of each semester.
* Parents have access to student progress through PowerSchool and, by Spring 2016, through ManageBac.

Assessment and Student Expectations

* Students are responsible for their learning.
* Students are required to submit both formative and summative tasks in a timely manner.
* Students are expected to know and use assessment criteria while completing work.
* Students are to synthesize and apply their learning, ask questions, and solve problems.
* Students should strive to produce quality products and performances and to use assessment as a way to improve their learning.
* Students should regularly practice self-assessment, peer assessment and complete reflections on their learning.