

Making the grade? Teachers introduce new grading system to HHS

by sophomore Grace Jorgensen.

Imagine- a school day customized for you: your needs met, lessons altered to you and projects based on what you need to know and be able to do. Just imagine!

At the start of this school year, a new grading system was put in place by three high school teachers which does just that.

The idea to apply this system at the high school started after a group of teachers attended a conference in Minnesota this summer. The

conference promoted a different way of grading, a system used nationally called standards-based grading.

The theory

behind this system is that a student can become proficient in the content essential for the next level, while being in an environment where they can meet standards at their own pace.

Students are focused on gaining knowledge, not a grade.

Three teachers who attended the conference chose to adopt this system: social studies teacher Kim Culham, Spanish teacher Dawn Frye and science teacher John Paulson.

They believe the job of a teacher is to help students learn and succeed, and these teachers saw this as an opportunity to do just that.

"The new grading (system) made me realize that this way of teaching helps all students succeed," said Frye.

In her classroom, students that don't quite get it the first time get a chance to try again. She requires kids who score below

a 70% to retest and gives the kids who get above a 70% the choice if they would like to retest.

Even with this

small

change, I see improvement," said Frye, who notes students are already bettering their skills.

This form of assessment not only affects the way of teaching, but the students' way of learning as well.

"I like it," said senior Katie Klingfus, who takes sociology and AP Psychology with Culham and Advanced Biology with Paulson. "It gives students a chance to redo and learn, rather than just taking the test

and fail."

But not everyone feels the same about this new way of grading.

"I don't like how sometimes your homework doesn't count- Why am I even trying if it doesn't count?" said sophomore Hailey Elder.

But both of these students agreed it's complicated having only some teachers use it.

"It's a little confusing," said Klingfus. "I wish all teachers would do it."

Some teachers have been using this system in theory for years. One is high school English teacher Joletta Yoder.

"I don't use it entirely because I think some students would take advantage of the system and use it as a crutch to not quality work on a timely basis," said Yoder, citing completion of reading assignments, for example. She does, however, do it with grammar and vocabulary building.

With some teachers implementing standards-based grading, the school is beginning to explore the idea that education is about learning and not the grade.

"Education is changing so much," said Frye. "We need a grading system to change with it."

"This way of teaching helps all students succeed."

- Spanish teacher Dawn Frye

pirate PointOfView

THE PIRATE PRESS asked 30 high school students to share their views on the new grading system.

On a scale of 1-10, students rated this grading system as a **5**

"I don't think it is helping me what so ever. The only thing I am noticing is that the work I am putting into my homework isn't helping my grade.... Now that our homework doesn't count, we are going to stop trying. If we stop trying on our practice, then we fail our test."

- sophomore Hailey Elder

52% of students said that this grading system has helped them grow.

"Now I can do (homework) and use it more as practice and not just trying to get it all right for my grade."

- sophomore Lane Marlow

Seeing double: Double the Dorothy, double the Glinda, double the talent

by sophomore Katelyn Pint.

This year, Hudson High School will be presenting the musical *The Wizard of Oz*. The show will be in the high school auditorium on November 12-14.

This year's show is said to be an exciting one because the roles of Dorothy and Glinda were both double cast.

"There is so much talent here at Hudson, so I wanted to give more students the opportunity to perform," said musical director Julie Anderson.

In order to accommodate the double roles, there will be three evening shows and an added matinee performance on Saturday- something new for HHS.

Senior Alli Weaver and junior Maddie Hartleip will be starring as Dorothy. Juniors Emily Kaus and Lauren Murray will perform as Glinda. Each actor will perform in two of the four shows.

Reserved seating begins November 1 at the high school office. Tickets may also be purchased at the door. All seats are \$6 each.



images courtesy of Google and Lifetouch



Junior Maddie Hartleip (far left) and senior Alli Weaver will star as "Dorothy."



Juniors Emily Kaus (far left) and Lauren Murray will play "Glinda The Good Witch."