

Our Journey towards Competency Based Learning



Oyster River Middle School

Important Definitions

Competency- an overarching concept that encompasses multiple learning standards which are interconnected. These are developed by each grade level for each discipline.

Standard- A non-negotiable, measurable learning objective that guides instruction. These content specific standards have been developed either at the state or national level.

I can statements- Standards can be converted into I can statements so that they are more student and parent friendly.

Introduction – Quick Overview of CB system

- Oyster River and Competency Based Learning
- What is Competency Based Learning?
- Early recognition of benefits and potential roadblocks
- Formation and Expansion of PLC
- Competency Based Learning Website for additional information

<https://sites.google.com/a/sau5.org/standards-based-learning-resources/?pli=1>

Why is this the best system for ORMS?

Benefits of Competency Based Grading:

All students clearly show their mathematical reasoning.

Clearly defined standards and student progress for students, parents, and teachers.

I believe more math is learned with CBL (70% versus a “Progressing”)

Focus is on math concepts learned instead of points earned.

Strategies that helped to overcome challenges:

Following rubric made by Aaron Ward that is used on every assessment.

Put ownership on the students, instead of me if the standard wasn't met.

Students make a plan: IXL, video lessons, review notes and HW, setup meeting with me....

Learning Goal: I can fluently add and subtract rational numbers.	
M - Met the Standard	Solid mathematical reasoning is shown and most solutions are correct. Incorrect solutions contain only minor errors.
P - Progressing toward the Standard	Inconsistent use of reasoning or application of mathematics to solve problems. Some solutions are incorrect. Student is on the right track but needs additional practice.
B – Beginning stage of the Standard	Mathematical reasoning or correct application of mathematics to solve problems is not shown. Multiple solutions are incorrect.

Progression of our Journey

Awareness



Investigation



Development



Implementation



Refinement

Where are we now?

Dept.	November 2015	May 2016	September 2016
5th Grade	Refinement	Refinement	Refinement
Music	Development - Implementation	Implementation	Refinement
WL	Awareness	Development - Implement (16-17)	Implementation
PE	Development - Implementation	Implementation	Refinement
Health	Development	Development - Implement (16-17)	Implementation
Unified Arts	Awareness	Development - Implement (16-17)	Implementation
Math	Development - Implementation	Implementation	Refinement

Professional Development

Oct: “Meaningful Assessment for Competency Based Grading”

Nov: Rob Westerberg

Jan.-April: 2-3 release days by department

Feb-May: Formative Assessment & Standards Based Grading book group

Feb & April: School Visits

March: NELMS, PD article- discussed purpose,



July: Sanborn Regional

Summer Proposals

Draft PD Plan for 2016-2017

September:

- Presentation at Grappone Center - Tuesday 20th
- Form sub-committee for reporting options

October:

- Workshop day October 7- Presentation: Competency Based Learning/Best Practices (Homework, Retake, RTI, Common Assessments)
- Faculty Work: Develop department goals, team goals, and individual goals. Determine: what kind of professional days/support do you need and why?
- Survey staff to gauge competency work progress.

November:

- Workshop Day November 8 - Assessment and Rubric Workshop
- Follow up faculty work: Conversation regarding best practices and scale
- Vertical meetings in the afternoon (grades 6-12)

December:

- Habits of Learning conversation (faculty meeting)

January:

- Workshop Day January 23 - Focus on reporting and assessing
- Faculty Work: Habits of Learning follow up/decision(?)
- Survey staff to gauge competency work progress.

February:

- PLC meets with teams/content, Feedback at Staff meeting regarding "reporting"

Spring 2017:

- Workshop Day March 24 - Work with curriculum departments
- Presentation to School Board on reporting
- Workshop Day May 26 - Rubric reflection and developing common rubrics
- Staff Meeting: Reflection on year's work and objectives for 2017-2018

How Are Decisions Made (Staff Inclusion) as we move forward?

Staff surveys

Content Area Departments

Grade level teams

Group discussions in small focus groups

Discussions as an entire faculty

Exit ticket feedback

Every teacher has had their vote counted in decisions regarding reporting.

Example: 46 staff members voted that “exceeding a standard” should not be reflected on a student’s report and 37 staff members voted that they would prefer using letters such as (M) for Meets standard as opposed to numbers (1.,2.,3) when reporting competencies.



Reporting

2015-2016 School Year

Habits of Learning

Standards

Averaged Numerical
Grades/Letter Grades

Exploring Powerschool
Capabilities

2016-2017 School Year

- Small PLC working in sandbox powerschool.
- Implementing Competency curriculum but not reporting

- Formative feedback:

What do we hope it will look like by Fall 2017?

- Competency Reporting
- Habits of Learning
- No averages

Rubric Examples



[Current Events Assignment](#)

[Habits of Work and Learning](#)

Science Work Feedback



I completely understand this. I can do this on my own. I can show understanding of concepts and apply them to new tasks.



I almost get this. I can mostly do this or need very little help or I may need to have an example in front of me.



I am starting to get this but I'm still confused. I need more instruction and/or practice. I need to touch base with my teacher for help.

Inc

I have not done enough to show that I understand the concepts. I may have been absent, not turned in my work, or not completed my work.

What's Next

MOVING FORWARD

CBL is an ongoing work in progress

Report progress to school board

Educating community (students, parents, etc.)

Round table discussion with parents and community members

IMPLEMENTATION

Math, P.E., Arts, S.T.E.M., Health/ Life Skills, Music, WL

Implementation by all subjects beginning fall 2017

Q&A