

# North Boone

## Community Unit School District 200

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### North Boone Announces Grading Changes

North Boone created a grading committee last fall to review the district's grading and promotion practices after conducting a survey of staff the previous spring. The committee headed by Jacob Hubert, NBHS assistant principal and Dr. Bridget Belcastro, NBMS principal included a variety of K-12 staff and examined the district's current grading procedures in light of both the staff survey results and the changes in assessment standards and practices over the past several years.

The committee met for most of the year and conducted a second parent and staff survey on grading practices to solicit input last December. The committee ultimately recommended moving to a new grading scale that maintains seventy percent as the base passing grade while eliminating "D" grades. According to Dr. Belcastro, NBMS principal, "this new scale allows us to maintain high standards while preparing our students for the grading scale they will see in college." The Board's Curriculum Committee approved the concepts at its March 2012 meeting. North Boone students in grades 5-12 will be graded on a ten point scale similar to those used in the majority of Illinois districts, with one exception, passing will require a 70% instead of the 60% used in many districts. This will allow North Boone to maintain higher criteria for passing but at the same time ensure North Boone students aren't penalized in their college searches, etc. when compared with students from other schools.

A+	100-98	B+	89-87	C+	79-77	F	69-0
A	97-93	B	86-83	C	76-73		
A-	90-92	B-	82-80	C-	72-70		

AP and Honors courses will continue to receive weighted grade points. Non-honors courses will follow the scale below:

A+ & A	4.0	B-	2.7	F	0.0
A-	3.7	C+	2.3	I	0.0
B+	3.3	C	2.0		
B	3.0	C-	1.7		

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Elementary grading for grades K-4 is currently on a standards based system which will be modified to a 4 point scale as follows:

- 4 – Consistently exceeds grade level expectations
- 3 – Meets grade level expectations
- 2 – Skills developing but not yet at grade level
- 1 – Frequent support needed

This is in response to teacher and parent concerns that the current three point system doesn't distinguish enough among students in the middle area.

The new grading procedures will be put in place for August 2012. It was presented to the incoming freshman class at NBHS on May 9 at the NBHS Orientation Night. Mr. Hubert was excited to announce that no student would earn a "D" next fall.

North Boone Community Unit School District 200 serves approximately 1800 students in pre-school through high school in the Villages of Caledonia, Capron and Poplar Grove as well as the northern tier of unincorporated Boone County, Illinois. For more information visit the NBCUSD website at [www.nbcusd.org](http://www.nbcusd.org) or contact the district office at 815-765-3322.