Standards-Based Grading Overview

During this year, you will be learning information related to many topics in physics. In this course, a non-traditional criterion-based assessment system is used. Rather than using a point system to record scores on various assignments, quizzes and tests, you must demonstrate your level of proficiency on various learning goals. For example, instead of getting one grade for a quiz that may cover many topics, you will be scored on individual learning goals such as, "I can interpret/draw position vs. time graphs for an object moving with constant velocity."

The goal of this method is to have your numerical grade at the end of a term represent your mastery of the subject. Since this type of grading is so different from what you have likely experienced before, take note of the information below to help you interpret your progress in the class.

Your Standing on Each Objective
After an assessment, your teacher will indicate your progress on each objective using a 0 – 2 number scale.

0: No mastery has been shown.

1: Developing mastery. This score could indicate that you are missing part of a conceptual understanding, and/or that you have made an error in reasoning or in your process.

2: Mastery has been shown.

Your mastery on each standard can always go up or down as new data is collected. When it comes time to translate your mastery into a number grade, *only the most recent measurement will count*. You will always have a chance to try again with each skill.

Levels of Objectives and Numerical Grades
Each objective is categorized as an A, B, or C. These categories serve to show you which skills are the most fundamental, and they help you to plan a path toward the final numerical grade that you want to receive.

A: These are the core skills of the course.

B: These skills usually depend on mastering the A-level skills. They are the "meat" of the physics content.

C: These skills usually depend on mastering the B-level skills. They require higher-level thinking skills (e.g., analyze, evaluate, or create) be applied to the physics content.

Quarter Grades
Only objectives introduced and assessed about a week or two before the end of the quarter will count for that quarter (though we will continue with new material in class). **Cumulative** quarterly grades will be assigned as follows:

Grade	Core Goals (A)	Intermediate Goals (B)	Advanced Goals (C)
65	Developing		
68	Mastery / Developing		
70	Mastery		
75	Mastery	Developing	
80	Mastery	Developing	
85	Mastery	Mastery / Developing	
90	Mastery	Mastery	
93	Mastery	Mastery	Developing
96	Mastery	Mastery	Mastery / Developing
100	Mastery	Mastery	Mastery

A final exam or final project will count for 12% of your final course grade.