What is standards based grading?

Standards-Based Grading communicates how students are performing on a set of clearly defined learning targets called standards. The purpose of SBG is to identify what a student knows, or is able to do, in relation to pre-established learning targets, as opposed to simply averaging grades/scores over the course of a grading period, which can mask what a student has learned, or not learned, in a specific course.

Why switch?

I believe that grades are about what students learn, not what they earn. Standards Based Grading reports what students know and are able to do within each content area. The real-time monitoring of students performance reflects a more accurate picture of student achievement. Other reasons for SBG include:

- Traditional methods of grading do not accurately reflect what a student knows and is able to do. (i.e. *How do you distinguish between an 83% and an 84%?*)
- Grades may be clouded by individual teacher subjectivity and/or requirements. (i.e. *Returning a class syllabus signed by a parent/or guardian for points.*)
- Students will be able to explain what they learned or did not learn rather than recite a letter grade or percentage. (i.e. *I can describe the process of cell division by mitosis.*)
- It provides accurate and meaningful feedback to student, teachers, and parents.
- Helps teacher and students focus and adjust instruction and learning.
- Leads to higher learning through improved accountability and engagement as students have multiple opportunities to demonstrate mastery. (i.e. *Retakes of learning checks, tests, certain assignments, etc.*)

How does it differ from traditional grading?

Unlike with traditional grading systems, a standards-based grading system measures a student's mastery of content standards by prioritizing the most recent, consistent level of performance. Thus, a student who may have struggled at the beginning of a course, when first encountering new material, may still be able to demonstrate mastery of key content/concepts by the end of a grading period.

TRADITIONAL GRADING	STANDARDS BASED
Emphasis on averaging percentages of a period of time *(student who struggles @ the beginning may never earn back enough points to truly show what they learned OR a student may earn enough points to slack the rest of the semester)*	Emphasis on looking at most recent student work to provide grades. (*A student who struggles at the beginning but masters the skill at the end is rewarded. The grade is a continuous reflection of what the student knows.*)
Students struggling to earn the grade they want may ask to do extra credit to earn points to reach a desired grade.	Students have opportunities to retest certain skills to show growth. The conversation shifts from "I need to get 5 more points to get an A" to "It looks like I really struggled with graphing lines. Can I get some extra help on this so I can improve the next time"
Student grades: 100, 85, 70, 0 – average = 64% or "D" (not accurate representation of what they know)	Student Grades: 2, 2, 3, 3, 4 → average 2.8 or "B" (Clearer representation of what they know, and students have opportunity to improve lower scores)

How are my student's grades determined?

Students are graded on tests. Practice assignments (homework, mastery checks, etc) are just that, practice, and thus should serve primarily as a source of feedback and instructional support for both students and teachers. Scores on practice assignments should not be used as a major component of a student's academic grade. Teachers may require students to complete all of their practice work prior to allowing them to take, or retake, an assessment.

What do the scores in skyward mean?

- See grading rubic on weebly!
- Example: A 2 / 4 in skyward says it is an F because it calculates percentages but a score of 2 in standards based would be in the C range!

How do the quarter grades get calculated?

I take the most common or recently scores for each standard and average them to calculate the quarter grades. The average is converted to an A-F scale using the chart below. The quarter grades are continuously calculated and updated when new grades are entered into skyward.

A+ 4
A 3.8-3.9
A- 3.5-3.7

B+ 3.0-3.4
B 2.8-2.9
B- 2.5-2.7

C+ 2.0-2.4
C 1.8-1.9
C- 1.6-1.7
_____
D+ 1.4- 1.5
D 1.2-1.3
D- 1 – 1.1

0-.9 = F