



OFFICE OF EDUCATION

Seventh-day Adventist Church
SOUTHWESTERN UNION

Dear Parents,

The mission of Adventist education in the Southwestern Union is to “Collaborate for learning excellence through faith and service.” We are excited to introduce a new standards-based program that will assist us in accomplishing our mission, as well as increase student involvement in the learning process. Standards are specific and clearly stated learning goals of what a student must know and be able to do to demonstrate mastery of a skill or concept at each grade level. The NAD academic standards serve as the foundation for teaching and learning.

Proficiency scales have been developed for each standard in an effort to more accurately instruct and assess student knowledge of specific concepts and skills. A proficiency scale is a learning continuum used by teachers and students to determine the student’s current level of progress toward meeting the standards for their grade; proficiency scales show student achievement as it relates to a given standard. Proficiency scales are on a 1.0 to 4.0 scale with 3.0 being mastery of the grade level content. The chart below is a guide used by students and teachers when assessing a specific standard.

Proficiency Scales	
4.0	“I know this skill/concept so well I could explain it to others, or extend it to new situations.”
3.0	“I know this skill/concept well enough to have mastered the grade-level expectation.”
2.0	“I am still working towards the grade-level expectation, and getting closer.”
1.0	“I need extra support to perform in this area.”

With the use of this program, students will be better able to set and reach goals in the classroom. Students will continue to be assessed informally through daily classroom instruction and assignments, as well as formally through quizzes, tests, and projects. Grades will be reported in terms of proficiency levels as well as letter grades, providing a clearer indicator of what students have learned.

We look forward to this exciting transition and to working collaboratively with students and parents. Standards-based learning will improve our communication with you so you can better support your child’s learning. Thank you for your continued support of Adventist education.
