

LEARNING GOAL: By the end of the 2016-2017 school year the teachers of Mt. Ararat Middle School will utilize Empower to accurately and effectively track and report out on student learning.

Pre-conditions

- All Learning Goals in Empower tiles
 - All groups and rosters created on Empower through Infinite Campus import
-

1. Beginning

Teachers will be able to

- Recall and retell the elevator speech* of why we are using Empower
 - Use Infinite Campus only for attendance and directory data
 - Report on student progress without using letter grades
 - Log into Empower and access student rosters
 - Describe the Learning Goals for the year
 - Put 4-3-2-1** scores in the Grading Spreadsheet
 - Use scores on learning goals to accurately reflect student learning; four times a year
 - Teach students to log into Empower to see their progress
-

2. Developing

Teachers will be able to

- Use Empower data to inform and customize classroom instruction
 - Work from the scales**, developed by their focus groups, as the year progresses
 - Put updated scores into Empower quarterly
 - Use Empower as the guide for Parent/Teacher Conferences
 - Teach students to access Empower regularly
-

3. Applying

Teachers will be able to

- Use Learning Goals to plan daily learning targets/lessons/activities
 - Regularly update all scores in Grading Spreadsheet (every two weeks)
 - Use Empower for all discussions regarding student progress on standards
 - Teach students to access Empower regularly to plan their next steps
-

4. Innovating

Teachers will be able to

- Use the Playlist module in Empower to track daily learning targets and activities
 - Teach students to use Empower Playlists to guide their learning progress and take ownership of their learning
 - Pilot the use of data to inform groupings within classes, teams, and/or grades
-

* An “elevator speech” is a brief explanation encapsulating the philosophy and rationale.
What is Empower and Why are we using it?

In part, Empower is a grading program that allows the school to report student progress on learning goals. It gives more detailed information than traditional report cards with letter grades. It clearly allows everyone (students, parents, and teachers) to see where students have been in their learning, and where they are going next.

JW-Is there a way to have honor roll be progress based? PB- As in, most progress made?

Empower Goals - What will it look like for staff and student

Student recognition?

What will progress reports look like?

What will teachers be responsible for doing with Empower next year

How do we talk to kids about Empower

How do we show kids how to use grading spreadsheet

Does every teacher talk them about it or does their advisor talk to them about it

Do teachers have to use playlists and activities or are they an option but not a requirement

Will teacher update in real-time or is there an expectations for how often teachers update

What does the student view look like

What parents will see next year

When will parents have access

Use of pacing guide

1-2-3-4 Progression of Targets for next year, with a date for when the whole staff will move from 1-2-3?

List for What to Ask Doug:

-How do we let parents know where their kid is in relation to other students? We noticed that "on pace" is already in Empower

-Report Cards- Could this be a known deadline of the most accurate data instead of a print out

-Honor Roll- could this be tied into Work Habits

-Eligibility- should we have any?

-Role of Advisor Group program with academic goal setting

MINIMUM TEACHER EXPECTATIONS WITH EMPOWER:

- Infinite Campus will no longer be used as a grading system
- No letter grades
- Grading Spreadsheet will be used to report progress/status on assessments that are tied to learning goals
- The Grading Spreadsheet should be kept up to date (what frequency is realistic to expect ?) - "toggle Tuesday" - by end of year, cueing students to check this weekly
- Parents can expect that at the four progress report times, the Grading Spreadsheet is an accurate representation of how their child is doing

- There will a report card four times per year, based on the scores on the Grading Spreadsheet, updated
- Habits of Work will be one of the content areas within the grading spreadsheet, organized by content area. (tabled 5/10/16)
- Each teacher can continue to use the system of organizing assignments for practice and evidence which they are currently using (and with which they are comfortable)
- A goal by the end of 2017 that each Learning Goal on the Spreadsheet will have a scale attached to it. With each assessment, there needs to be an opportunity for a 1, 2, 3, 4. A “4 score” means greater depth in cognitive complexity on the taxonomy