

Science Hill High School

Assessment Policy

Philosophy/Purpose

The primary purpose of assessment at Science Hill is to inform, and thereby improve, student learning. Assessment informs teachers of how students are progressing and the effectiveness of their instruction, allowing them to improve instruction and guidance. It informs the students of their progress towards meeting their achievement goals and the effectiveness of their learning strategies, allowing them to develop into lifelong learners. It informs parents of where their student stands, in terms of preparing for college and/or life in general. It provides all stakeholders the information needed to help the students reach their full potential.

Methods of Assessment

Science Hill uses a variety of assessment methods. Some are developed internally, by the individual teacher or by department. Others are developed externally, by the state or others. Some assessments are formative; ongoing assessments which can be either formal or informal and are used to determine weaknesses in order to improve progress. Others are summative; formal assessments measuring mastery based on specific criteria, often used to determine grades for reporting progress.

Science Hill teachers are well trained in assessing student knowledge. Each teacher has access to guidelines and curriculum materials for each course they teach. They are well aware of the criterion by which the students are judged and the rubrics used to determine scores.

A strong emphasis is placed on self-evaluation by students. The criteria by which they will be judged are clearly explained for assignments and they are given practice evaluating sample work using it. They are encouraged to use this knowledge to evaluate their own work.

IB Diploma Specific Assessments

There are two primary types of assessments used to determine a student's grade in an IB subject. These are the Internal Assessments and the External Assessments.

The Internal Assessment is an assessment graded by the IB teacher. A representative sample is then mailed to IBO examiners to be moderated in order to ensure consistency from school to school. It usually consists of oral exams, lab reports, projects or portfolios, depending on the subject. It can count for up to 50% of the student's final IB subject grade.

The External Assessments are examinations given at the end of each course. These are mailed away and graded by examiners working for the IBO. They are usually given two parts on subsequent days. They make up the rest of the students IB subject grade.

In order to get the IB Diploma, a student must also write an essay for Theory of Knowledge, an Extended Essay and complete the Community Action Service requirement.

State Specific Assessments

Science Hill also administers all tests required by the State of Tennessee in order for students to receive a high school diploma. These tests may vary over time but include assessments such as EOC's, TCAP's, and the ACT.