

VMCCA Grading Practices 2023-2024

Grading Periods

Report cards will be issued at the end of each nine-week grading period at Vernon Malone College and Career Academy. Teachers are required to update their course grades in PowerSchools once every two weeks throughout the school year.

Assessments -

Throughout the course of the semester, students will be assessed in a variety of ways to determine mastery of the state/local curriculum. Such assessments will also inform teachers of the need for further instruction, remediation, practice, additional scaffolding, extension, etc. An assessment is any student task(s) where the teacher is needing to determine one or more of the above factors. Based on some assessments, students will receive necessary feedback to improve their mastery of content.

Homework:

VMCCA's Homework Policy is based on WCPSS Homework Policy 3135

- Work that is assigned for students to complete at home can count no more than 15% of students quarter grades.
- The Wake County Board of Education recognizes the importance of homework in supplementing classroom instruction and furthering the goals of the educational program. Homework reinforces learning and fosters independence, responsibility, and self-direction.
- Because each student spends a major part of each weekday in class and because there are other valuable experiences to be gained outside school, homework shall be planned carefully and evaluated periodically regarding its appropriateness.
 - To enrich and extend school experiences through related home activities.
 - To reinforce learning by providing practice and application.
- The following are **school-wide expectations** for homework:

- Homework, should not exceed an average of 30 minutes per class each night;
- Aside from long-term projects, should not be scheduled during student breaks;
- Homework will be accepted for a penalty of 10 points per day, not to exceed a 50-point deduction of the assigned grade;
- Homework may be completed throughout the duration of a unit of study or within five (5) days of the date assigned, whichever comes first;
- Homework that is not turned in by the end of the designated timeframe will be calculated as a zero (0);
- PowerSchool, by default, does not calculate missing work in the grade. Teachers will enter missed work as a zero throughout the quarter to indicate that it is missing.

Extra Credit

Extra credit will not be offered to students. We commit to assigning students meaningful, purposeful work to facilitate learning. All of it is essential to mastery of learning objectives. If additional practice is needed for mastery, it will be assigned.

Missed Work

VMCCA's Missed Work Policy is based on WCPSS Policy 3400

The following are **district-wide expectations** for missed work:

- If the absence is approved in advance and/or if the work is assigned by the teacher in advance, all make-up work, including tests assigned for the day of return, is due upon the student's return to school. Teachers should use discretion and may make exceptions in the case of students whose excused absences were not planned in advance, were beyond the student's control, and the nature of which would not support make-up work the day of return;
- If the make-up work has not been assigned in advance, for absences of one (1) to three (3) days, the student will have one day for each day absent. For absences exceeding three (3) days, the student may have two (2) days for each day absent to make up work. Special consideration will be given in the case of extended absences due to injury or chronic illness.

- The following are **school-wide expectations** for missed work:
 - *If the missed work is not related to absences*, students will have up to five (5) days to turn in the assignment;
 - Missing work will be accepted for a penalty of 10 points per day, not to exceed a 50-point deduction of the assigned grade;
 - PowerSchool, by default, does not calculate missing work in the grade. Teachers will enter missed work as a zero throughout the quarter to indicate that it is missing. At the end of a grading quarter, any missing work will be recorded as a zero (0).

Grade Recovery

Grade Recovery is not extra credit. It is an opportunity for students to recover a portion of their grade on a quarterly basis to show mastery

Based on the above, teachers in each department will define and maintain a consistent practice for **Grade Recovery**:

- Students will have the opportunity to recover a portion of their grade before the end of each quarter;
- Departments will have consistent practice for grade recovery in all courses within that department;
- Teachers are responsible for clearly defining their grade recovery practice in their respective syllabi and reviewing with students.

Calculating Grades

VMCCA Departments will determine the categories and percentage weight of each category to calculate course grades

- No single grade in any category can be worth more than 10% of the entire quarter grade.
- If a department chooses to have “homework” as a category, then it cannot weigh more than 15% of the total grade. If combined with another category, then it still cannot weigh more than 15% (i.e., classwork + homework = 15%)
- Teachers are responsible for clearly defining the categories and associated percentages in their respective syllabi.
- Grading practices for departments will be submitted annually to the Principal for review and approval (unless a new course is added after the start of the year).

Grading Scale and Quality Points

Scale and Quality Points are based on Wake County Board of Education standards:

<u>Grading Scale</u>	<u>AP Courses</u>	<u>Honors Courses</u>	<u>Standard Courses</u>
A (90-100)	5	4.5	4
B (80-89)	4	3.5	3
C (70-79)	3	2.5	2
D (60-69)	2	1.5	1
F (0-59)	0	0	0
INC	Incomplete - While a student should receive a grade whenever possible, the teacher may issue an "Incomplete" (INC), with principal approval, when students are unable to complete assignments that are major components of the grade. Students must adhere to the teacher's plan for completing those assignments or the grade will revert to the original grade. Incompletes will not be used for 4th quarter grades.		
WF	Withdrawal with an F (negatively impacts GPA)		

Process for Calculating Grades for Courses

A uniform process and formula shall be used to calculate student final grades. See example below.

- Quarter 1 = 40%
- Quarter 2 = 40%
- Final Exam = 20%
- Final Course Grade = .4 (Q1 Average) + .4 (Q2 Average) + .2 (Final Exam)

PowerSchool Gradebook Expectations and Icons

All VMCCA teachers are required to use the following PowerSchools Icons to provide students and parents further information concerning assignment grades.

Legend

1 - This final grade may include assignments that are not yet published, or may be the result of special weighting used by the teacher. [Click to view additional information on special weighting.](#)

Icons  - Has Description |  - Has Comment |  - Weighted Assignment |  - Collected |  - Late |  - Missing |  - Exempt from Final Grade | 
 - Absent |  - Incomplete |  - Excluded

Course Withdrawal Penalty

Except in emergency situations as approved by the principal, students are not allowed to drop a course after the first ten (10) days of school. If a student withdraws after a ten-day period and an emergency situation does not exist, a failure (WF) is noted as the grade and the course is counted as a course attempted with no quality points relative to class rank. *(Please note that this includes withdrawal from all WTCC courses as WTCC courses have a bearing on WCPSS GPA.)*