

Heritage Middle Grading Policy

At Heritage Middle School we believe that grades should be an accurate reflection of student learning and a primary way to communicate this to both students and their families. We believe that behavior and work habits should be measured separately from academic grades and should not be factored into students' academic grades.

The two primary questions that will guide our grading policy are:

1. Do my assessment/practice assignments align with (and only with) the curriculum?
2. Does a student's numeric average represent their knowledge of the curriculum?

To this end, the following will serve as our guide for grading/assessing students' academic performance:

1. We will use a total points system.
2. We follow a 10 point grade scale.
3. Homework/Classwork is practice and is not graded. Only assessments are counted as a grade.
4. Behavior/Work Habits shall not be factored into academic grades. They will be communicated to all students who are struggling in this area at least quarterly using either a rubric or through specific comments posted in Power Parent.
5. Zeros shall not be counted, except in rare cases with administrative approval. Teams will incorporate weekly academic recovery for students to complete work.
6. Homework and Practice shall not be factored into the students' academic average for any quarter. The purpose of homework is for practice.
7. Homework shall not exceed 90 minutes for all subjects combined on any given day.
8. Homework shall not be assigned over holidays or over track outs. However, homework may be assigned over weekends at teacher discretion. Long-term projects that span weekends, holidays or track outs may be assigned to allow flexibility to families, but the due date shall not be within the first few days of returning to school.
9. All students with a 79% and below shall be provided at least the opportunity to re-test/complete test corrections (assessments) given specific team parameters. All students shall be given this opportunity at least twice per quarter (one prior to interims and one after interims) in each class. Teacher Teams (6.1, 7.2, 8.3, etc.) have the option to allow students who score 80%-99% the opportunity for test corrections/re-tests as well, but this is a team-based decision. Test corrections will always be for ½ credit. Teacher Teams can also set the eligibility parameters required for the completion of test corrections/re-tests.
10. Student grades shall not be negatively impacted for non-academic or non-curricular variables (such as no name on the paper, wrong size paper, parent signature, cheating, etc.). Cheating will be addressed through the discipline process.
11. Extra Credit shall not be offered to students. Students have the opportunity to improve their grade by following the guidelines in #9.
12. When students are absent for 1-3 days, they shall be given 1 day for each day they were absent to make up their work with no penalty. When students are absent for more than 3 days, they shall be given 2 days for each day they were absent to make up their work with no penalty.
13. Students shall be provided a minimum of five (5) school days beyond any graded assignment due date to submit the graded assignment with up to a 10% penalty.
14. Interims shall be given at the midpoint of each grading period for any student who is failing a course or whose course grade has dropped by a letter grade or more. In addition, the teacher shall call or e-mail the parent/guardian to discuss ways to help the student be successful for any student who has an "F" in a course.
15. Power Parent shall be updated at a minimum of once every 2 weeks.