

Wendell Middle School 2018-2019 Grading Plan

In the Wake County Public School System, we are committed to maintaining rigorous performance and achievement standards for all students and to providing a fair and consistent process for evaluating and reporting student progress that is understandable to students and their parents and relevant for instructional purposes.

The information below shares specific information about grading at our school. For more information on these practices, please contact:

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Homework will count as 10% of the grade

The purpose of homework is to:

- (1) Extend and enrich school experiences through related home activities.
- (2) Reinforce learning by providing practice and application.

In order to make homework effective, **teachers will:**

- (1) Ensure that homework supports the curriculum for the course and/or the middle school instructional program.
- (2) Ensure that expectations for homework are communicated both to the student and to the parent through written classroom expectations at the beginning of the course.
- (3) Students will be given due dates for homework that are reasonable for the amount of work being given.
- (4) Coordinate with other teachers on their team to the extent possible to not overload students on a particular night.
- (5) Provide timely and meaningful feedback on homework.
- (6) Assign Working Lunch immediately when any assignment is not completed when it is due. The assignment will still be considered late since it was not completed at the time it was checked by the teacher.
- (7) Communicate with the parent when Working Lunch is assigned.

In order to make homework effective, **students will:**

- (1) Make note of their homework assignments, due dates, and assessment dates in their agenda.
- (2) Work to create an organized system to turn in work that has been completed.
- (3) Advocate for themselves and ask for help if they are feeling overwhelmed when working hard on their assignments.

In order to make homework effective, **parents should:**

- (1) Help ensure that students have an agenda for keeping track of their assignments and whether they are turned in.
- (2) Monitor PowerSchool Parent Portal, student agenda, and teacher websites.
- (3) Advocate for their child and ask for help if they are seeing frustration on the part of the student or homework that is exceeding the maximum amount of time listed below.

Because we value students having a full experience with learning and extra-curricular activities while still staying engaged in family and community life, we do not expect any student to work on homework for greater than 90 minutes per night. We do acknowledge that homework may take longer when (1) students choose to take more rigorous courses such as courses that carry high school credit, and/or (2) when students fail to prepare, study, or complete homework according to the set or suggested time schedule.

The first point of contact for concerns about homework should be the classroom teacher. In general, teachers are most able to respond to emails quickly but phone calls are also welcome. After that, the next contact should be the student's counselor.

The school's Homework Plan can be found on our website at www.wcpss.net/wendellms

Classwork & Assessments

The following are school-wide expectations for **classwork**:

In order to make classwork effective, **teachers will**:

- (1) Ensure that classwork supports the curriculum for the course and/or the middle school instructional program.
- (2) Ensure that expectations for classwork are communicated both to the student and to the parent through written classroom expectations at the beginning of the course.
- (3) Students will be given due dates for classwork that are reasonable for the amount of work being given.
- (4) Provide timely and meaningful feedback on classwork.
- (5) Working Lunch will be immediately assigned when a student fails to complete a classroom assignment or fails to work in an acceptable manner towards completion. Working Lunch provides a student time to complete a missing assignment in a timely manner. Working Lunch will be assigned until the assignment is complete. The assignment will still be considered late since it was not completed at the time it was checked by the teacher.
- (6) Communicate with the parent when Working Lunch is assigned.

In order to make classwork effective, **students will**:

- (1) Make note of their classwork assignments, due dates, and assessment dates in their agenda.
- (2) Work to create an organized system to turn in work that has been completed.
- (3) Advocate for themselves and ask for help if they are feeling overwhelmed when working hard on their assignments.

In order to make classwork effective, **parents should**:

- (1) Help ensure that students use their agenda to keep track of assignments.
- (2) Monitor PowerSchool Parent Portal, student agenda, and teacher websites.
- (3) Advocate for their child and ask for help if they are seeing frustration on the part of the student or classwork that is exceeding the maximum amount of time listed below.

Classwork allows students to practice a new skill or concept with support during the class period. When classwork is not completed during the period, Working Lunch may be assigned..

The following are school-wide expectations for **assessments**:

- (1) All classroom based assessments and assignments will be aligned with state/district adopted standards and /or curriculum.
- (2) All classroom based assessments will be designed to appropriately assess student achievement.

Grading Period / Interims / Report Cards

A report card with the student's grade is sent home every nine weeks and interim progress reports are sent home every three weeks. The report card distribution dates are listed on the school calendar.

The nine-week grade for each subject at WMS will be determined using the following percentages:

50 % – Major Assessments: tests, projects, papers, performances, etc.

40 % – Minor Assessments: class work, quizzes, etc.

10 % – Formative Assessments: homework, exit tickets, etc.

Nine-week grading requirements for each subject:

- (1) In each subject during the nine-week grading period, students will be required to complete a minimum of four major assessments and nine minor assignments, and other work assigned by the teacher.
- (2) This is the minimum expectation. A teacher may give additional assignments, tests, homework, etc. depending on the subject and material being covered and the needs of the students.

Middle School Grading Scale:

- A..... 90-100
- B..... 80-89
- C..... 70-79
- D 60-69
- F..... < 59

Please note the following expectations:

- (1) Misconduct or consequences will not influence a child's grades.
- (2) Parents will receive an Interim Report or Report Card every three weeks..
- (3) Teachers will communicate frequently with the student and parent. Parent and counselor contact should be made for students who are consistently missing assignments.
- (4) Teachers will work to ensure that students have ample opportunities in a variety of ways to demonstrate their understanding of the subject.
- (5) Grades should be entered within one week of the child completing the assignment or assessment..

Test Correction Procedures:

Students will have one opportunity to complete test corrections for all major assessments. Students must make the corrections using the test corrections template. Students will have two days to complete test corrections from the day that the test is returned to them. By correctly completing the test corrections, students will be able to earn half the credit back for each question that they have corrected. Test corrections may not be completed during working lunch.

Missed Work/Late Work Policy

The following are school-wide expectations for missed work:

- (1) Students are expected to complete all work assigned by their teachers.
- (2) The following are the deductions to be used for late assignments handed in within 5 school days of the original due date.
 - 1 day late 10% penalty
 - 2 days late 20% penalty
 - 3-5 days late 40% penalty
- (3) A student may still earn a zero if they fail to hand in the assignment within the 5 day window.
- (4) The original grade should be on the assignment before deduction so the student knows their level of mastery.
- (5) Working Lunch will be immediately assigned when a student fails to complete any assignment when it is due. Working Lunch provides a student time to complete a missing assignment in a timely manner. Working Lunch will be assigned until the assignment is complete. If an assignment has been corrected in class; an alternate, similar assignment may be given. The assignment will still be considered late since it was not completed at the time it was checked by the teacher.
- (6) Special consideration will be given in the case of extended absences due to injury or chronic illness.

Prevention-Intervention Plan

For students at risk of academic failure, our school seeks to provide a prevention/intervention system that promotes successful completion and mastery of work. Details of our plan are below:

The following are school-wide expectations for how we support prevention-intervention efforts:

- (1) Academic Recovery Plan: If a student earns a failing grade for the first, second, or third quarter they will be offered an Academic Recovery Plan. The plan will outline specific steps the students must complete to raise their previous quarter grade to a 60. When the academic recovery plan is successfully completed the previous quarter grade will be changed prior to the next report card.
- (2) Test correction policy as previously mentioned above.
- (3) Late work policy as previously mentioned above.
- (4) Working lunch policy as previously mentioned above.