

Middle School Uniform Grading Policy

CURRICULUM: Districtwide curriculum offering at the middle schools will consist of core academics and unified arts.

WEIGHTING: All academic and unified arts subjects will be weighted based upon the formula set by the Board of Education in developing Quality Point Ratio (QPR) at the end of each school year.

FORMULA: The formula to be used for grading students' performance in the area of knowledge acquisition will be 100% based evenly for every subject as defined below:

- 10% *Class work/Participation:*
- 1) Actively engaged in class.
 - 2) Communicates learning in class.
 - 3) Participates in groups.
 - 4) Graded notebook.
- 5% *Homework/Projects:*
- 1) Completes all assigned homework with accuracy.
- 85% *Content Knowledge:*
- 1) Meets expectations of curriculum through standards based assessments: DCMT, quarterly math assessment, quarterly writing prompts; and reports, projects, experiments.
 - 2) Meets expectations of curriculum through summative assessments: teacher made tests, quizzes; text driven assessment; and application of spelling.
 - 3) Meets expectations of curriculum through standardized tests: core tests (Trophies, Signatures, Saxon, etc.) and Navigator.

WEEKLY GRADING: All teachers shall develop and maintain a numerical grade for all students on a weekly or bi-weekly basis. A numerical grade indicating student performance at the time of exit from a school must be made available for the receiving middle school. Teachers shall make two or more comments per student per subject for each marking period. Report cards shall be expeditiously processed and returned to the teacher as soon as practicable after submission to Central Office.

INTERIM REPORT: Interim Reports shall be sent home half-way through each marking period. The reports are to be issued to all students. A copy shall be submitted to the respective house principals

MAKE-UP WORK: Work missed due to absences will be completed within five (5) school days upon return to school. Exceptions may be made with administrative approval.

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GRADING SENSITIVITY: Teachers are reminded to be sensitive to students who receive poor grades and feel there is no way to improve their grade or pass the course. Teachers shall dialogue with students, guidance counselors, department heads and administrators to seek an alternative route to improve student performance prior to the end of the marking period.

HOUBOUND INSTRUCTION: All long-term homebound instructors will contact the classroom teacher for material to be covered. The homebound instructor will provide a student portfolio to the classroom instructor for review and instructional placement. Regular reports on the status of the student's performance will be sent to the house principal at the middle school the student attends.

SPECIAL EDUCATION: The decision to promote students in these grades will be made at the building level, including the planning and placement team for identified special education students.

INCOMPLETE GRADE: An incomplete must be changed to a numerical grade and submitted to the office by the end of the following marking period.

EXAMS: Mid-term and final exams will be given for all core subject courses beginning with the 1999-2000 school year. Mid-term and final examinations will count as 25% of the grade for the year.

PASSING GRADE: Passing grade is 65.

RETENTION: Students retained shall be placed on a different team, if available, during their retention year.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES: Beginning with the 2007/08 school year, students who are not passing in at least four core academic courses will be ineligible to participate in extra-curricular activities. As soon as students exceed unexcused absences, in accordance with the Board of Education attendance policy, they will be immediately ineligible to participate in extra-curricular activities (all after school programs). Additionally, students who have not maintained a numerical average of 70.0

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or higher OR a 2.0 GPA during the marking period preceding and during the student's participation will be ineligible to participate in extra-curricular activities. (See Student – Athlete Eligibility Checklist-Middle School also)

POLICY REVIEW: Policy shall be reviewed in May, 2000 to include off level CMT scores.

In the event that schools are unexpectedly closed under a municipal, state or federal mandate for ten (10) or more consecutive school days, and with the approval of the Board of Education, the Superintendent will provide equitable grading procedures in the best interest of all students that account for such a closure and communicate the changes in procedures. In the event of such a closure, the Superintendent's grading procedures will supersede the formulas and grading policies. These procedures will remain in effect, by decision of the Superintendent and the Board of Education, until a time deemed appropriate.

