

Aug 17, 2022

Dear Mustang High School Families,

We are excited to welcome our students for the 2022-2023 school year. We have been working since last school year to create new programs and procedures aimed at helping our students be successful at MHS. Specifically, we have developed two new practices that will have positive impacts on our students: a flex schedule and new building wide grading practices.

### Flex Schedule

#### *Why?*

We have identified two important goals for MHS: To provide additional support to those students who are not meeting proficiency on specific skills/standards, and to increase ACT scores which indicate a student's readiness for college and/or career. According to research, this must be done during the school day due to the many responsibilities placed on students outside of normal school hours. Therefore, we have built time into the day with our flex schedule.

#### *What?*

On Wednesdays, our classes will be shortened to 40 minutes and students will be assigned a resource class (during our normal 6th hour). During this time students who need additional support will report to the teacher who has assigned them, students who do not need additional support will work on ACT Prep, and/or do enrichment activities in their class.

### Grading Practices

#### *Why?*

The purpose of grades is to document progress towards proficiency on standards in specific content areas, to provide feedback to the student and family, and to inform instructional decisions. We need a grading system that is fair to all students and reports a student's progress towards achievement of the standards.

#### *What?*

**Retake/Redo Policy:** A student will have a minimum of one reassessment option on summary assessments. All students, regardless of initial score, will have this opportunity. This may be scheduled for Wednesdays (flex time) or before/after school. There must be some form of re-teaching, tutoring, or student work that will assist the student in learning the skill before the retake.

**Late Work Policy:** Late work will be accepted at least until the end of the unit (summative/summary) assessment for full credit.

**Grade Weight/Assignment Weight:** Daily practice, homework, concept checks, or any other work designed to provide feedback to students will be weighted at 20%. Work that is designed to assess a student's proficiency of the standard/skills, including exams, essays, projects, etc. will be weighted at 80%. A common concern is, "what if my student doesn't test well?" Please remember, a student is provided a minimum of one re-take opportunity for assessments.

50 Based Grading: The lowest grade a student will receive on any assignment/assessment is a 50%. This includes work that is not handed in. Our current grading scale is a model that was developed in the 1800's and is weighted heavily towards failure. There are 10 points between each grade (90-100 A, 89-80 B, etc.) but when you get to 59%, there are 10 descriptions of an F. By basing the grading scale on 50, our grades now require from the student the same degree of improvement from an F to a D as we would require from a B to an A. If a student does not hand in an assignment, a code of NHI (not handed in) will be indicated in the gradebook. This will allow the student and parent to see that the assignment was never turned in for a grade.

We are committed to high levels of learning for our students and by making these changes to our schedule and grading practices, we will provide support for those who need it, and have fair grading practices that promote a focus on learning for ALL of our students. We appreciate your support and our doors are open should you have any questions or concerns. Thank you again and we look forward to a successful school year in partnership with you!

Respectfully,

Kathy Knowles, Principal