

3 Common Questions from Freshman Parents

Thanks to everyone who joined us for the freshman parent session on Fri., Aug. 26. Here are 3 common questions that come up in year one, as well as an attached PDF of the talking points from Dr. Bagdasharian.

1. How do freshman students generally navigate through grading assessments?

There is a definite learning curve for freshman when it comes to understanding how summative and formative assessments work. Formative assessments are the ongoing checkpoints (one can compare these to daily sports practices) and summative assessments measure where the student is at in their learning (in the sports analogy, these represent game day).

Parents can often see indicators of the breakdown between formative and summative assessments in Powerschool (most often 10% of the grade is based on formative work and 90% on summative). As the student progresses through high school, the formula can be different for different classes. Here, for example, is a look at the detail provided by our AP Statistics teacher:

Teacher Comments:

Section Description:

[AP Statistics Syllabus](#)

Grading Categories:

- Tests 70%
- Quizzes 20%
- Projects 10%

Summative Retake Procedure:

- Students can retake each chapter test at most one time.
- All retakes must be taken within 4 weeks of the date of the original chapter test. There will be no retakes given within the last 3 weeks of each semester.
- Assessments that have a grade of less than 50% must be retaken within 4 weeks of the original test date. After 4 weeks, the grade will be changed to N.E. (No Evidence), which will be calculated as 50%
- Assessments not taken within 4 weeks of the original test date will receive a grade of N.E. (No Evidence) which will be calculated as a 50%
- Chapter tests are the retake for chapter quizzes. Grades on chapter tests will replace chapter quiz grades if the student earns a better grade on the chapter test.

Parents interesting in understanding more about formative and summative assessments can read this [related blog post](#).

2. What happens if the student does not do the formative assessments?

The goal of formative assessments is to reinforce the practice that in turn leads to the highest result on the summative assessment. Teachers are required to calculate assessments at 50% even when no work has been completed, although the goal is for students to avoid that scenario. There are ample touchpoints and academic supports available, including [peer-to-peer tutoring](#), and the [math lab](#). Special Saturday sessions will also be available as the school year continues.

3. Why am I seeing P on my student's powerschool account this year?

The P (passing) offers teachers a chance to indicate how students are doing in classes that have fewer formative checkpoints, for example English classes.