

West Middle School Transition to Excellence Program

Grades for WMS students will impact their ability to participate in a variety of school activities. It will continue to be the case that any time a student has a grade of an F, that student will be ineligible to participate in athletics, field trips, extracurricular activities, dances, class celebrations, or clubs until the grade is brought up. Instead of participating in these activities, students with Fs will stay at school or in class to complete missing work or redo work on which they received a low grade. These students can also use before and after school tutoring as a resource. Tutoring is available almost every day. Students can drop in any day or schedule a tutoring session for a specific subject through any teacher.

Eighth graders will have to earn Passage Points to be eligible to participate in the 8th grade Passage Ceremony and other Passage Activities at the end of the year. Students earn one Passage Point for every letter grade above an F in each Core Class (Language Arts, Math, Social Studies, Science) at the end of each quarter and one-half point for every letter grade above an F in each elective course. To be eligible for Passage Activities, 8th graders must earn at least 15 out of a possible 20 Passage Points and can earn no more than two Fs in a single class. For example:

Student A earned 16.5/20 of the Passage Points and earned one F in each of four different classes, therefore can participate in the Passage Ceremony.

Student A					
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Passage Points
ELA	F	A	C	A	3
Math	C	F	D	C	3
Science	A	B	B	F	3
Social Studies	B	D	C	B	4
Elective 1	C	F	A	A	1.5 (3x.5)
Elective 2	A	A	A	A	2 (3x.5)
Total:					16.5

Student B earned 16/20 of the Passage Points, however, this student is ineligible to participate in Passage Activities because this student earned more than two Fs in a single class.

Student C did not earn the required 15/20 of the Passage Points, because too many Fs were earned, so the student only earned 13.5/15 Passage Points.

Student B						Student C					
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Passage Points		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Passage Points
ELA	D	F	F	F	1	ELA	B	B	C	F	3
Math	B	B	D	C	4	Math	F	F	D	C	2
Science	C	B	B	A	4	Science	B	B	B	F	3
Social Studies	C	B	C	B	4	Social Studies	C	B	C	F	3
Elective 1	B	A	B	A	2 (.5x4)	Elective 1	B	F	F	C	1 (.5x2)
Elective 2	B	F	F	C	1 (.5x2)	Elective 2	F	C	C	C	1.5 (.5x3)
Total:					16	Total:					13.5

The staff at WMS assign work on a regular basis, most of which can be completed in class if students use their time wisely. Any work that is not completed during class time will be considered homework and must be completed and turned in by the following class period. Homework will be graded by staff and entered weekly into the online grade book, which can be accessed by both student and parent or guardian in Parent Connect and The D11 Loop.

What can I do as a parent or guardian?

- Sign up for Parent Connect and The D11 Loop, the online systems to monitor grades, attendance and discipline.
- Make sure all your contact information is current and accurate, especially phone and email.
- Make sure your student attends school every day, check their attendance with Parent Connect or The D11 Loop.
- Monitor your student's progress in all classes regularly, making sure all work is turned in on time.
- Have your student show what they are working on in all classes. Yes, they can do that!
- Make contact with your student's teacher(s) as soon as you think there is an issue.
- Get a copy of the before and after school tutoring schedule, which is posted on our website.
- Do not wait until the quarter to ask about grades. Check them often. Check them with your student.

What happens if my student doesn't meet the Passage Point requirement?

Students who are not on track to meet the Passage Point requirement at any grade level during the school year will not be able to participate in athletics, field trips, extracurricular activities, dances, class celebrations, or clubs until the grade is above an F. In place of these activities, students will remain at school or attend tutoring to complete or redo work. Once a student is on track to earn all of their points, they will be able to return to these activities. Any student who has Ds or Fs at the end of the quarter will be ineligible to participate in end-of-quarter celebrations. Eighth grade students who have not earned the necessary Passage Points will not be able to participate in any end of year activities, including class parties, field trips, or the Passage Ceremony.

What if a student starts mid-year?

Students who come to West Middle School after the start of the year will have their Passage Points adjusted according to their date of entry.

How will students on IEPs be impacted?

Students on an IEP will also be required to earn a grade of D or better to earn Passage Points. For students on an IEP who have a goal in either Math or Language Arts, student progress toward the attainment of that goal will also impact whether or not a student receives the Passage Point for that class. Core teachers will work with the student's case manager to make sure the determination as to whether or not the student's mastery of the goal will impact the earning of the Passage Point.

How will students with passing grades be impacted?

Students with grades of C or better in ALL classes, including electives (applied academics), will be eligible to participate in athletics, field trips, extracurricular activities, dances, and celebrations.