

Gulf Shores Middle School Final Exam Exemption Policy

Purpose: The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for final exam exemptions based on a combination of student performance on grade-level diagnostic exams, overall course performance, and attendance. This policy aims to recognize students who have consistently demonstrated proficiency, achieved a satisfactory grade, and maintained good attendance, indicating they would not significantly benefit from taking a final exam in a core subject area.

Policy Statement: If a student meets the following criteria:

- Achieves a score at or above the grade-level proficiency benchmark on the end-of-year diagnostic exams (iReady for Math and English; Progress Learning for Science and Social Studies).
- Maintains an average of at least 80% (B) in the respective course throughout the academic year.
- Has less than five unexcused absences for the entire school year.

They shall be exempt from taking the final exam for the respective subject.

Guidelines and Criteria:

- Diagnostic Exams:
 - The diagnostic exams administered will be iReady for Math and English and Progress Learning for Science and Social Studies.
 - These exams are designed to assess students' understanding of grade-level content and skills.
- Proficiency Benchmark:
 - The grade-level proficiency benchmark will be set based on the curriculum standards and guidelines established by the diagnostic exam.
 - The benchmark score will be determined in consultation with subject area teachers, curriculum specialists, and relevant stakeholders.
- Course Performance:
 - To be eligible for exemption, a student must maintain an average of at least 80% (B) in the respective course throughout the academic year.
 - The average will be calculated based on the teacher's grading criteria and policies.
- Attendance:
 - To be eligible for exemption, a student must have less than five unexcused absences for the entire school year.
 - Excused absences due to illness, medical appointments, bereavement, or other valid reasons will not count against the exemption eligibility.
- Exemption Criteria:
 - The student must meet all three criteria mentioned above to be exempt from the final exam for the respective subject.
 - The exemption is subject-specific. Therefore, a student may be exempt from one subject's final exam while still required to take the final exam for another subject.
- Communication:
 - The final exam exemption criteria and process will be clearly communicated to students, parents/guardians, and faculty members at the beginning of each academic year.
 - Students and parents/guardians will be notified of exemption eligibility and any updates to the policy in a timely manner.
 - If a student is excused from the final exam, the teacher will mark the assessment as "Excused" in Canvas to notify the student and the parent.
- Teacher Discretion:
 - While the primary consideration for final exam exemption is based on diagnostic exam performance, course average, and attendance, teachers retain the discretion to evaluate other factors that may impact a student's readiness for exemption.
 - Teachers may consider additional assessments, class participation, homework completion, and overall academic performance when making a determination about final exam exemption.



GULF SHORES

MIDDLE SCHOOL

2023 FINAL EXAM EXEMPTION FORM

This completed form must be submitted to the front office by Friday, May 17th in order to be exempt from the final(s) and receive an excused absence during the final(s).

Student Name: _____

Date: _____

SUBJECT	CLASS AVERAGE	DIAGNOSTIC SCORE	UNEXCUSED ABSENCES	TEACHER SIGNATURE
English				
Math				
Science				
Social Studies				

Final Exemption Requirements:

- 80/B or higher final average in the class.
- Less than **FIVE** unexcused absences for the entire school year.
- At/Above grade-level proficiency benchmark score on the end-of-year diagnostic test.
 - English: 6th Grade - 641 | 7th Grade - 654 | 8th Grade - 670
 - Math: 6th Grade - 541 | 7th Grade - 565 | 8th Grade - 575
 - Science: 80% or above on Progress Learning Assessment
 - Social Studies: 80% or above on Progress Learning Assessment

By signing below, I agree my child is exempt from the final(s) above and excuse him/her from attendance on the day(s) of the final exam(s) - May 20th for ELA/History and May 21st for Math/Science. I understand he/she must be present on days he/she is not exempt from all finals, and that there is no exemption for PE or electives.

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____