

Bluffton Middle School Grading Practices 23-24

GRADING PRINCIPLES

BLMS strives to maintain grading practices that are common for the same course or grade level subject. Students will be provided with common classroom experiences and course expectations by their grade level teachers. Teachers will administer graded assessments in each weighted category (minimum of 1 grade weekly per formative assessment and 1 grade every two weeks per summative assessment). Gradebooks should be organized by standard based categories to coincide with curriculum maps. Grades will be entered weekly to provide consistent feedback to students and parents on assessments to ensure continuous communication on student progress. Students will be given the opportunity to retake assessments in order to demonstrate content proficiency. Through Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) grade level teachers will collaborate to design appropriate grading instruments to evaluate student work. Teachers will use assessment grades as tools to support student learning with appropriate feedback, re-teaching, and opportunities to improve performance.

GRADING

Numerical grades are mandated in SC Middle Schools and the minimum passing grade is 60%.

Grading System
A = 90 – 100%
B = 80 – 89%
C = 70 – 79%
D = 60 – 69%
F = 0 – 59%

To receive one Carnegie unit of credit in a high school credit class, a student must be in attendance at least 120 hours, per unit, regardless of the number of days missed. Students who have excessive absences are to meet with the course teacher, counselor, and administrator any options that may be possible to satisfy the 120-hour requirement.

Core Subjects (Math, ELA, Science, and Social Studies)

Summative	60%	The goal for summative assessment is to evaluate student learning at the end of an instructional unit.	Tests, projects, presentations, performance tasks, DBQs, essays, science projects, and lab reports.
Formative	40%	The goal of formative assessments is to monitor student learning and provide ongoing feedback. Adjustments to instructional strategies and activities may be implemented to further comprehension.	Journals, notebooks, warm-ups, classwork, quizzes, closure activities, homework, and classwork.

Academic Arts Team

Visual Arts		
Summative	60%	Projects
Formative	40%	Classwork, quizzes, skills building, warm-ups
Physical Education		
Summative	60%	Skills assessment
Formative	40%	Skills Practice & Building, quizzes, warm-ups, closure activities
Music		
Summative	60%	Playing and written tests
Formative	40%	Performances, daily technique assessment, practice charts
PLTW		
Summative	60%	Projects, tests
Formative	40%	Classwork, skill building activities, quizzes, homework
Exploratory Spanish		
Summative	60%	Tests, quizzes, projects
Formative	40%	Classwork, Rosetta Stone, homework

GRADE CALCULATION

A student's quarter grades will be determined using the 60% summative/40% formative grade weights outlined above.

A student's final grade will be calculated as follows:

For non EOC courses, each quarter will be worth 50% of the semester to be calculated as follows:

$$(Q1+Q2)/2=S1 \qquad (Q3+Q4)/2=S2$$

The semester averages will be averaged to establish the final grade as follows:

$$(S1+S2)/2=F1$$

For EOC courses, each semester will be worth 40% and the EOC is worth 20% to be calculated as follows:

$$(S1 \times .4) + (S2 \times .4) + (\text{EOC score} \times .2) = F1$$

For semester based courses the final grade will be calculated as follows:

$$(Q1+Q2)/2= F1$$

GRADE CHANGES

To process grade changes, teachers must see the Data Specialist for the grade change form, complete it and submit the grade change form to the principal for approval. Grades cannot be changed without following district established procedures which include explicit consent of the teacher. The district follows the statewide guidelines for grading/assessment.

GRADE FLOOR

Student grades are recorded as earned. BLMS does not include a grade floor in the grading policy. Students who are scoring below 70 consistently on assignments, tests, and quizzes will be referred for possible support or intervention through the MTSS process.

GRADING PERIODS

All student grades are posted in PowerSchool. In addition, official reporting periods are determined for each school year and listed on the school calendar. Students or parents/guardians can access student grades via PowerSchool portal at any time, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Visit our webpage, then Parents, then Parent Portal for more information.

HOMework (BCSD IS-46)

Homework is viewed as an extension of classroom activity. Homework will be in harmony with the child's needs and abilities and will not be given for disciplinary reasons. Teachers should recognize that home and outside activities have educational value and therefore should not overburden students with homework. Assignments must be carefully planned, appropriate to the student's grade level and be well understood by the student before he/she leaves school. Allowances should be made for individual differences in interests and abilities. Although all homework assignments need not be formally graded, teachers are expected to evaluate the student's homework performance to assess the student's needs and/or level of mastery.

HONOR ROLL

Honor Roll certificates are awarded based on the cumulative quarter average as follows:

All A's = Principal's Honor Roll
All A's and B's = Honor Roll

Honor Roll determination at the end of the year occurs one week before the scheduled distribution of awards.

IN-HOUSE STUDENT TRANSFERS GRADES

Students who transfer from other schools (from within or outside of the district) will have their grades recorded and reported on the current school's student report card. However, a comment **must** be recorded on the report card that indicates that the grades from a previous school have been included.

LATE WORK

For excused (Lawful) absences, students will be granted the opportunity to make-up any missed assignments and /or work due to the absence(s). This will include quizzes, test, writing assignments etc. The period for making up the work will be a minimum of one (1) class day for each class day missed to a maximum of one week. For example, if a student misses two days of school (Monday and Tuesday) and returns on Wednesday, then Thursday and Friday will be granted as make-up days for missing Monday and Tuesday (one day for each day missed). In this example, all missed assignments or work (test, quiz etc.) would not be due until Monday. Students who have unexcused absences may be given the opportunity to make up work at the discretion of the principal and teacher during make-up sessions, however, the unexcused absence remains in the student's record.

Teachers will assign and communicate a due date in which work is to be submitted. In some sections, teachers will assign and communicate a deadline date which is the absolute last date the work will be permitted to be turned in for full credit. Late and missing assignments will be recorded with a score of '0' and marked with a missing or late flag in the grade book with a note indicating the timeline for submission.

PROGRESS REPORTS

Progress reports are sent home to parents/guardians of all students at the midpoint of each quarter. The purpose of these reports is to communicate student progress in all classes. Distribution dates are indicated on the calendar in the months of September, November, February and April.

REPORT CARDS

Report cards are sent home at the end of each quarter. Distribution dates are indicated on the calendar in the months of October, January, March and May.

REPORTING GRADES

It is the school's responsibility to report grades to parents. PowerSchool encourages ongoing communication, which allows parents to participate in the education of their children and increases mutual understanding between home and school. Purposes of reporting grades to parents include:

1. Communicating student mastery of course content.
2. Relating student's academic strength and weaknesses.
3. Encouraging positive relationships between the home and school.
4. Improve student learning.
5. Notifying parents when a student's grade has fallen below a 70/C.

It is the parents' responsibility to log onto PowerSchool weekly to check their child's grades and attendance. Live up-to-date information is available to parents so that they can be active in their child's education.

Information about the dates for progress reports, report cards, and parent conferences are noted on the district website, as well as the BLMS website and newsletters to the parents.

RETESTING

Students needing to achieve content mastery (summative assessments below 70/C) may retest following a student-teacher conference and reteach of identified skill weaknesses.