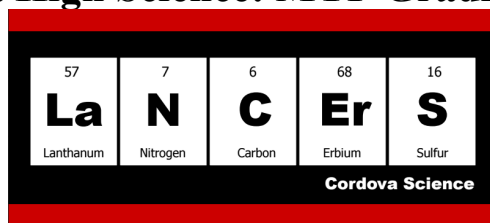


Cordova High Science: MYP Grading Policy



In the Middle Years Program (MYP) all students will be assessed using common rubrics through the ninth and tenth grades in all science courses. These rubrics allow students to recognize their skill levels and grow throughout the course of the year. In each individual subject (Biology, Chemistry, Physics) students will be given a summative assessment in each of the following four areas at least twice per semester:

FOUR SCIENCE CRITERIA

- A. *Knowing and Understanding*** – Students develop scientific knowledge (facts, ideas, concepts, processes, laws, principles, models and theories) and apply it to solve problems and express scientifically supported judgments.
- B. *Inquiring and Designing*** – Intellectual and practical skills are developed through designing, analyzing and performing scientific investigations. Although the scientific method involves a wide variety of approaches, the MYP emphasizes experimental work and scientific inquiry.
- C. *Processing and Evaluating*** – Students collect, process, and interpret qualitative and/or quantitative data, and explain conclusions that have been appropriately reached. MYP science helps students to develop analytical thinking skills, which they can use to evaluate the method and discuss possible improvements or extensions.
- D. *Reflecting on the Impacts of Science*** – Students gain global understanding of science by evaluating the implications of scientific developments and their applications to a specific problem or issue. Varied scientific language will be applied in order to demonstrate understanding. Students are expected to become aware of the importance of documenting the work of others when communicating in science.

ASSESSMENT

A model of growth is used in the International Baccalaureate program. Students will be assessed numerous times throughout the course. Some assessments are large, while some are smaller. It is important that students try their best to demonstrate their current understanding on ALL assignments. Teachers may use homework problems or exam results to assess the student's learning and growth. Many concepts in science are continuously assessed over the course of the year. If a student shows growth from one assessment to

another, this is reflected in the rubric score and their grade.

It is a common misconception to students that all work in the course is not equally important. Much like playing a sport, students must practice for the big game or exam. If students are not completing the practice they will not be ready for the big exam. Students who practice will grow and this will be reflected in their grade.

Student grades will be determined on an eight point rubric correlating to the demonstrated skill level.

| 8 Point Rubric Scale | Mastery Level Descriptions |
|----------------------|----------------------------|
| 8 | Exemplary Mastery |
| 7 | Advanced Mastery |
| 6 | Proficient Mastery |
| 5 | Acceptable Mastery |

| 8 Point Rubric Scale | Mastery Level Descriptions |
|----------------------|----------------------------|
| 4 | Approaching Mastery |
| 3 | Limited Mastery |
| 2 | Beginning Mastery |
| 1 | Deficient Mastery |
| 0 | No Effort |

The purpose of assessment is to track student understanding and skills. As the semester passes, students should show growth in their understanding and demonstrate this on assessments. Each area is assessed multiple times giving students

multiple opportunities to show growth in their scientific understanding and science skills. Poor performance on ONE assessment will not determine the entire grade for a semester as there are 4 areas being assessed.

Unexcused Late Work: Students may be required to fill out a Late Assignment Form, LAF, and agree with their teacher on a reasonable “Revised Completion Date”. All work must be turned in by the End of Unit Summative Assessment at the end of the unit.

Absences: It is the responsibility of the student to meet with the teacher and get the make-up work (work missed) during the absence immediately when return. Lab make-ups will need to be arranged with the teacher, due to the nature of consumable materials, an alternative assignment may be assigned. All make-up work will have a due date that is agreed upon with the teacher. All work must be turned in by the End of Unit Summative Assessment at the end of the unit. Students who are absent on the day of a summative assessment must complete the assessment upon returning to class.

Re-Assessment: Students will be reassessed throughout the semester to show their growth. Reassessment DOES NOT mean ‘retake’. Students should try their best on each assessment to show growth. Reassessment will occur during a future assessment for students to show growth in mastery.

Academic Dishonesty: Academic dishonesty occurs when a student uses someone else’s work as their own. Examples of academic dishonesty include: plagiarism, “sharing” of documents in google docs, copying someone’s answers and changing a few words, or allowing someone to write the paper for you. *You are participating in plagiarism when you take someone else’s work and call it your own, as well as when you give your work to someone else.*

ANY instance of academic dishonesty will be followed with these actions:

- 1) Meeting between teacher and student and notification to parent
- 2) Notification to the Assistant Principal and recorded in the student’s discipline record
- 3) Student will be given “second chance” to “redo” the assignment under the terms of the teacher.
- 4) Only one “second chance” will be granted for the school year.

Student Progress

Student progress in MYP courses will be tracked in the PowerSchool. Students and parents may login and view students’ scores through the Parent Portal.

Final Semester Grades

Students will have multiple scores for each of the four science criteria over the course of the semester. These scores will be compiled and a student will be given a grade on a 1-7 MYP scale. This score will correlate with a letter grade as shown in the table below.

| Final Sum of 4 Criteria | MYP Grade | FCUSD Letter Grade |
|-------------------------|-----------|--------------------|
| 0-5 | 1 | D-/F/NM |
| 6-9 | 2 | D+/D |
| 10-14 | 3 | C/C- |
| 15-18 | 4 | B-/C+ |
| 19-23 | 5 | B+/B |
| 24-27 | 6 | A/A- |
| 28-32 | 7 | A+/A |

California Science Curriculum

The State of California has recently adopted new science standards called the “Next Generation Science Standards”, or NGSS. This year the CHS Science Department will begin implementing these new standards. The new standards require students to demonstrate new skills and may require activities that students may not have previously experienced. Below are links to the new standards for your reading pleasure:

California CDE Page: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/pd/ca/sc/ngssstandards.asp>

NSTA Parent Q & A: <http://ngss.nsta.org/parent-q-and-a/>

In addition, the CHS Science Department is following the Common Core State Standards for ELA in:
<http://www.cde.ca.gov/re/cc/>