

GRADING SYSTEMS

Philosophy

The Indian River School District's grading system is designed to evaluate a student's academic progress and to effectively convey this information to students, parents, and other appropriate parties. Grades shall be used to measure the progress of a student in relation to instructional objectives/standards. Implementation Procedures shall ensure that grading practices are consistent with this policy.

Kindergarten

- 1 = Below Grade Level Expectations
- 2 = Progressing Toward Grade Level
- 3 = Meets Grade Level
- 4 = Beyond Grade Level

Non-Numerical Grading Scale for Grades K – 5

- S = Satisfactory
- N = Needs Improvement
- U = Unsatisfactory
- I = Incomplete

Grading Scale for Elementary (Grades 1-5) and Middle School

- 90-100=A
- 80-89=B
- 70-79= C
- 65-69=D
- 64 or lower=F

High School Grading Scale (Effective SY2018-2019)

		College Prep.	Honors/ AC Levels 1&2	+College Level: AP/IB/AC=Levels 3-5 only/DE
95-100	A+	4.0	4.75*	5.25*
90-94	A	4.0	4.5	5.0
85-89	B+	3.5	4.0	4.5
80-84	B	3.0	3.5	4.0
75-79	C+	2.5	3.0	3.5
70-74	C	2.0	2.5	3.0
65-69	D	1.0		
64 or lower	F	0.0		

*= .25 for A+

Honors/AC Levels 1 & 2 classes will receive an additional weight of .5 on a 4.0 scale. District-approved Advanced classes (Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, Dual Enrollment, Academic Challenge) will receive an additional weight of 1.0 on a 4.0 scale. Those students who earn an A+ in Honors or Advanced Classes will receive an additional weight of .25 on a 4.0 scale. Grades of D and F receive no additional weighting. Students earning a qualifying score on AP or IB national exams will have their final course grade evaluated and adjusted, if applicable, according to the chart found in IKA-Reg.1

S = Satisfactory
U = Unsatisfactory
I = Incomplete
WD = Withdraw

Marking Period Grades

For students in Kindergarten through 5th grade, a minimum of ten grades will be recorded for English Language Arts, comprised of both reading and writing grades and six grades will be recorded for Math, these grades will be used in determining the marking period grade for each content area. 60% of grades for Elementary English Language Arts grades will be designated reading grades and 40% of grades will be designated writing grades. For students in grades 6 through 12, a minimum of nine grades will be recorded and used in determining the marking period grade. In certain circumstances when a course or a group of students does not meet for a full nine-week marking period (i.e. fourth marking period for students in senior year status), the minimum number of grades recorded will equal the number of weeks the course meets.

No individual grade shall count more than 25% of that marking period's grade.

For the purpose of increasing communication with parents, grades will be entered electronically in the current Student Information System (SIS) a minimum of every two weeks. The building principal may make exceptions under extenuating circumstances.

Examinations

Students in Grades 9 – 11 will take final exams. State-sponsored exams including end of course exams, may be used instead of district exams at the discretion of the Superintendent or his/her designee. Final exams for students in Grade 12 will be at the discretion of the building Principal.

Dates for Final Exams will be collaboratively determined by the high school principals and the district's secondary director. Final Exams will only be administered on those determined dates.

Report Card Grades

1. Report card grades are to reflect students' academic growth and progress toward state content area standards. During each marking period, formative assessments should consist of a **combination** of items such as graded classroom assignments, projects, writing assignments, and quizzes that measure progress toward state/district adopted standards. Summative assessments such as common assessments, unit tests, and major projects measure students' accomplishment of unit goals. Formative assessment scores will comprise thirty (30) percent of the report card grade in secondary grade levels (6-12), and summative measures will comprise seventy (70) percent of the marking period grade. The percentages will be widely communicated to parents and students at the beginning of each school year.

2. Standardized Method of Grade Calculation – Individual teacher grading procedures will be submitted to and approved by the building principal to ensure compliance with district policy. Numerical averages will be rounded following standard mathematical procedures.

3. A numerical scale shall be used to average, compute, and report grades at the elementary

and middle school levels.

4. A numerical scale shall be used to average and compute grades at the high school level. A grade point average (GPA) will be established by using the numerical average from the online teacher grade book and converting it to a letter grade according to the high school grading scale. Letter grades will be used on the report card.

Exceptions:

- a. Kindergarten students will not receive a numerical grade.
 - b. Grades 1 through 5 courses meeting less than three times a week will receive an “S” “N”, or “U.”
 - c. Grades 1 through 5 science, social studies, and handwriting will receive an “S,” “N,” or “U.”
 - d. Under certain circumstances, courses in middle and high may be graded “S” or “U” with district director approval.
5. No report card grade will be lower than a 55 for the first three marking periods.
- a. During the first three marking periods, the parent will be notified in writing of the student’s actual grade earned.
 - b. During the fourth marking period, the student’s actual grade earned will appear on the student’s report card.
 - c. For a course lasting a marking period or less, the report card grade will not be lower than a 55.
 - d. For semester courses, the first marking period grade of each semester will not be lower than a 55. The second marking period of the semester course may reflect the student’s actual grade.
6. Final Grades – If no marking period or examination grade of “I” exists, the final grades shall be determined as follows:
- a. Final exams will account for 10% of the final course grade. The remaining 90% shall be comprised of equally divided marking period grades.
 - b. Incomplete grades: No final grade may be awarded if an “I” exists for a marking period or an exam grade.
 - 1) Students shall have ten school days after the end of each marking period, for each of the first three marking periods, to make up “I” or incomplete grades. If the student fails to make up the work within the ten school days, the grade of “I” converts to a zero for the work missed and will be used by the teacher in computing marking period grades.
 - 2) Students shall have fourteen calendar days after report cards are distributed at the end of the school year to make up “I” or incomplete grades. Failure to make up the work within the fourteen calendar days will result in “I” work converted to a zero for the work missed and will be used in computing final grades.
 - 3) The building administrator will determine a plan for students with unusual circumstances. In some cases, Individual Education Plans (IEP) and 504 plans will require the team to convene and update the plan.

Class Ranking and Valedictorian/Salutatorian

1. Ranking is started in the ninth grade and continues until a student completes high school.

2. Ranking includes:

All courses will be weighted as shown in the grading scale. College Prep courses will be weighted at 4.00. Courses designated as honors will be weighted at 4.5. Courses designated as College Level Courses, Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate or taken through an approved university will be weighted at 5.0. Weighting occurs on grades of C or above. Courses that are not graded numerically will not be used in determining class rank. A district-wide administrative committee shall determine the weighting status of established and new courses. The weighting system applies to grade point average and class rank only.

3. The senior class valedictorian will be determined in the following way:

- a. Only seniors who have attended the high school for their last two (2) years will be considered.
- b. The student that meets the above criteria with the highest GPA will be the valedictorian. The student with the second highest GPA will be the salutatorian.
- c. If there is a tie in GPA carried out four (4) decimal places (the ten-thousandth place), a tie for the valedictorian and/or salutatorian will be recognized.

Progress Reports

Progress Reports for all students will be issued by classroom teachers and distributed to all students midway through the marking period according to dates published in the district calendar.

A parent/guardian of any student in danger of failing for the marking period, semester/school year shall be contacted in a reciprocal manner (i.e., phone call, e-mail, parent conference, promotion and review letters). The meeting and corresponding documentation will be noted in the current Student Information System (SIS)

Homework

Homework can play an important role in deepening student understanding of standards-driven classroom instruction and therefore, homework that supports learning through meaningful practice is expected to be assigned at each grade level/subject. In assigning homework, classroom teachers shall consider those that can be completed by students in a reasonable timeframe as they balance multiple course workloads, as well as commitments to family, community, and after-school activities.

Homework shall be for practice/reinforcement and no new concepts or objectives shall be introduced as homework. Homework can also serve as preview, but in these instances, students shall first receive timely feedback on the homework assignment, or be provided the opportunity to apply the learning to classroom discussions and tasks before it is assessed.

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