



Patchogue Medford School District

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September 6, 2024

Dear Community Members,

I am pleased to announce that the Board of Education has approved a new grading policy for students in grades 6-12. This policy is the result of a two-year collaborative effort involving community members, students, administrators, and teachers who generously volunteered their time on the Instructional and Student Support Board of Education Committee.

The full policy is available on our district website at:

<https://www.pmschools.org/cms/lib/NY01001244/Centricity/Domain/10/5132%20-%20Grading%20Systems%202024.pdf>

Key components of the new policy include:

1. Consistent grading practices across teachers within the same department and course.
2. A specified number of assessments is required per marking quarter, ensuring consistent evaluation and multiple assessment opportunities for students.
3. Fixed percentages for formative and summative assessments across all departments.
4. Uniform late assignment penalties across all departments and courses:
 - 20% deduction for each day late
 - Assignments not accepted after 4 days (with provisions for extenuating circumstances)
5. Departmental consistency in grading practices for extra credit, test corrections, and retesting.
6. A standardized grading rubric for all Physical Education classes district wide.

Teachers have been instructed to review their specific grading policies during the first week of school with students and with parents at the upcoming Back to School Nights. Additionally, you can access the grading policy for each course and department using the following link located under Academics:

<https://www.pmschools.org/domain/46>

An important change this year concerns our report card system. To align with the new requirement for a specified number of assessments per marking quarter, we are adjusting the grading frequency for certain courses. Full-year courses that meet every other day, excluding Physical Education, will now receive grades twice per year: one at the end

of quarter two and another at the end of quarter four. For these courses, teachers will provide academic progress comments only at the end of quarters one and three. This change ensures that students in these courses have sufficient time to complete the required number of assessments before receiving a formal grade.

We believe these changes will promote fairness, consistency, and transparency in our grading practices. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your building principal, our academic directors, or my office. Thank you for your continued support of our students' academic success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lori Cannetti". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent loop at the end.

Lori Cannetti
Assistant Superintendent for Instruction