

Smyrna School District

Secondary Grading Practices

Overview of Grading Philosophy

The grades in secondary classrooms (6-12) are anchored in a 4-point scale that is directly tied to the letter grades of A, B, C, D, and F. The system utilizes the plus and minus designations to more accurately measure student learning and understanding while providing increased clarity of a student's progress toward learning targets and serving to produce a comprehensive score that demonstrates the overall degree of student learning in a particular course.

Determining Marking Period Grades

Within teachers' gradebooks on eSchool, the marks with corresponding values indicated in the chart to the right will be used to indicate student progress and success on individual assignments and assessments.

While teachers have discretion and autonomy within their classrooms, in a given marking period, a gradebook can typically be expected to have 10 - 25 grades. These grades will be a variety of academic activities but are categorized into three defined categories with specific weights.

Preparation for Learning (Weight x1) Small assignments and activities that provide students with an opportunity to activate learning and learn introductory skills for more significant concepts.

Practices of Learning (Weight x3) Formative assignments that allow students to practice the skills and concepts while developing an understanding of the overall content.

Products of Learning (Weight x5) Major assessments, projects, and summative measures of student learning that are designed for students to demonstrate mastery of content and standards.

Even with an average of 10-25 grades in the gradebook, through the weighting of grades (x3 or x5), the calculation for a marking period grade is often the accumulation of 50+ total grades.

The marking period grade within the gradebook is a raw score resulting in an average of all of the grades within a given marking period (with weighting). The average score for the marking period, as calculated by eSchool, is compared to the conversion scale to the right, resulting in a letter grade on the report card. The cut scores within this chart are designed to represent student performance accurately.

Once grades are converted to a letter on the report card, the average score of the marking period ceases to hold value in the calculation of the final grade.

Letter	Value
A	4.0
A-	3.7
B+	3.3
B	3.0
B-	2.7
C+	2.3
C	2.0
C-	1.7
D+	1.3
D	1.0
F	0.0

MP Average	Grade
3.5 - 4.0	A
3.3 - 3.4	A-
3.1 - 3.2	B+
2.7 - 3.0	B
2.5 - 2.6	B-
2.3 - 2.4	C+
1.8 - 2.2	C
1.6 - 1.7	C-
1.4 - 1.5	D+
0.8 - 1.3	D
0.0 - 0.7	F

Calculating End-of-Year Grades

For each marking period, grades will appear on the report card in the form of letters (with plus and minus designations as appropriate.) In calculating the final grade for the year, the value of each letter is indicated in the chart to the right. It is important to note that marking period grade book scores are not used in this calculation; only the report card scores are used in calculating final grades.

Letter	Value
A	4.0
A-	3.7
B+	3.3
B	3.0
B-	2.7
C+	2.3
C	2.0
C-	1.7
D+	1.3
D	1.0
F	0.0

Intermediate School

In 6th-grade classrooms, the school year is divided into trimesters, with each report card grade given equal weight. The sum of the three grades is divided by 3.

$$\frac{\text{Trimester 1} + \text{Trimester 2} + \text{Trimester 3}}{3}$$

Middle School (Year-long course without a final)

In 7th and 8th grade classrooms, the report card grade in each of the 4 marking periods is given equal weight. The sum of the four grades is divided by 4.

$$\frac{\text{MP 1} + \text{MP 2} + \text{MP 3} + \text{MP 4}}{4}$$

High School (Full Year Course with a Final)

Full-year courses at the high school have a report card grade for each of the four marking periods and the final exam. Each marking period will count for 22% and the final exam will be worth 12%.

$$(\text{MP 1} \times .22) + (\text{MP 2} \times .22) + (\text{MP 3} \times .22) + (\text{MP 4} \times .22) + (\text{Final} \times .12)$$

Semester Course (Middle School and High School)

For any half-year course at the middle school and high school, the report card will only reflect two grades. These two grades are totaled and divided by 2.

$$\frac{\text{MP 1} + \text{MP 2}}{2} \quad \text{or} \quad \frac{\text{MP 3} + \text{MP 4}}{2}$$

Final Grade Conversion

The above calculations will determine the final grade for the year. Using the chart to the right, those numbers will be used to determine the final letter grade for the year.

Yearlong Avg.	Final Grade
3.85 - 4.0	A
3.5 - 3.84	A-
3.15 - 3.49	B+
2.85 - 3.14	B
2.5 - 2.84	B-
2.15 - 2.49	C+
1.85 - 2.14	C
1.5 - 1.84	C-
1.15 - 1.49	D+
0.8 - 1.14	D
0.0 - 0.79	F