

INSTRUCTION

Classroom Management

Grading

Middle School

The grade a student receives in any school in Prince William County (6-8) should be based upon the same criteria. The following are the criteria for determining achievement, effort, and conduct grades. Achievement is based on actual academic performance on assignments directly related to the Curriculum Action Plan whereas effort and conduct are based on the observed behaviors of the student.

The middle school grading scale is as follows:

A	93-100	4.0
B+	90-92	3.4
B	84-89	3.0
C+	81-83	2.4
C	74-80	2.0
D+	71-73	1.4
D	65-70	1.0
F	64 and below	0

Achievement Grade

Percentage

A = Excellent

Demonstrates outstanding scholarship and achievement.

93-100

Achieves maximum growth in relation to the established objectives.

Is self-directed in his/her attainment.

Evidences understanding and appreciation of the fundamental concepts of the subject area.

Achievement Grade

Percentage

Exercises superior ability in problem solving and in arriving at logical conclusions.

Shows originality in preparation of assignments.

Is responsible and participates positively in class activities.

Expresses ideas clearly both orally and in writing.

Submits all work on or before due date. Displays neatness, legibility, and accuracy in work.

B+ = Very Good

Displays all of the characteristics of the "B" student and some of the characteristics of the "A" student.

90-92

Modulates between the characteristics of the "B" student and the "A" student.

B = Good

Displays many of the same characteristics of the "A" student.

84-89

Demonstrates above average scholarship and achievement.

Does his/her assignments thoroughly and accurately and makes creative contributions.

Is responsible and participates in class activities.

C+ = High Average Displays all the characteristics 81-83
 of the "C" student and some of
 the characteristics of the "B"
 student.

Achievement Grade

Percentage

Modulates between the
 characteristics of the "C"
 student and the "B" student.

C = Average

Achieves many of the objectives 74-80
 developed for the class.

Is responsible and participates
 in class activities.

Frequently requires individual
 direction.

Demonstrates average scholarship
 and achievement.

Finishes most projects or
 assignments within the time
 allotted.

D+ = Fair

Displays all the 71-73
 characteristics of the "D"
 student and some of the
 characteristics of the "C"
 student.

Modulates between the
 characteristics of the "D"
 student and the "C" student.

D = Below Average

Frequently falls below the level 65-70
 of achievement of which he/she
 is capable.

Seldom completes an undertaking without teacher direction and encouragement.

Demonstrates little understanding of instructional objectives.

May be irregular in attendance and generally fails to make up missed work.

Achievement Grade

Percentage

	Although efforts may have been made to improve, submitted work is still of poor quality.	
	Shows little interest in the class and rarely contributes.	
F = Failing	Infrequently completes assignments.	64 & below
	Demonstrates no effort though he/she has the ability.	
	Receives an "incomplete" and does nothing to warrant its change in the time allowed.	
	Has excessive unexcused absences.	
	Fails to meet the minimum requirements of the course.	
	Fails to complete course work due to excused absences. (See Regulation 661.04-4.)	
	Fails to complete 65% of the assigned, evaluated work. (See exception under "Special Provisions.")	

I = Incomplete Fails to complete course work due to excused absences. (See Regulation 661.04-4.)

N/G = No Grade Has not been enrolled for 50% of the grading period.

CONDUCT GRADES

Courtesy: Respects others, uses good manners.

Dependability: Demonstrates honesty and reliability.

Personal Habits: Exhibits self-control, conforms to school regulations and the Code of Behavior, and respects the rights and property of others.

Cooperation: Works for the mutual benefit of the group and is willing to assist others.

 O - Outstanding: Consistently practices these traits.

 S - Satisfactory: Normally practices these traits.

 U - Unsatisfactory: Does not practice these traits to an acceptable degree.

Students receiving two "U's" in conduct (no matter what combination of "U's," "O's," and "S's" are involved) will result in the student being considered ineligible to participate in any extracurricular activities as defined by the local school. NOTE: An "N" for "needs improvement" may be used on interims only!

EFFORT GRADES

Responsibility: Attempts each activity.

 Completes work/assignments in a neat and thorough manner.

 Uses time wisely.

- O - Outstanding: Consistently practices these traits.
- S - Satisfactory: Normally practices these traits.
- U - Unsatisfactory: Does not practice these traits to an acceptable degree.

SIX AND SEVENTH GRADE CLASSES

1. All teachers are required to have two separate achievement grades per student for every six instructional days in each subject area.
2. In grades 6-7, teachers may record either letter grades or numerical grades in the grade book, but regardless of the method of recording grades in the grade book, each grade must be converted to its letter equivalent before averaging except in Carnegie unit classes.
3. For the purpose of averaging grades for the four, nine-week grading periods, the following conversion table will be used to determine the marking period grade:

A=4 B+=3.4 B=3 C+=2.4 C=2 D+=1.4 D=1 F=0

Example: The following grades would be converted as indicated:

D	B+	C	C	B	C+	C+	D+
1.0	3.4	2.0	2.0	3.0	2.4	2.4	1.4

D+	C	B+	A				
1.4	2.0	3.4	4.0	=	28.4	total points	

Twenty-eight point four (28.4) divided by twelve, the number of grades, equals 2.367 (rounds to 2.37) or the letter grade of C+.

4. In calculating grades, carry the calculation to three places (thousandths) and round to two decimal places (hundredths). When the calculation to the nearest hundredth has been completed, the following conversion of averaged grades applies:

CONVERSION OF AVERAGED GRADES TO LETTER GRADES

A	=	3.50	-	4.00
B+	=	3.30	-	3.49
B	=	2.50	-	3.29
C+	=	2.30	-	2.49
C	=	1.50	-	2.29
D+	=	1.30	-	1.49
*D	=	.50	-	1.29
*F	=	.00	-	.49

*Note: Teacher discretion is allowed at the 0.50 level in determining a "D" or "F" grade for the nine-week grading period when the grade-point average falls exactly at 0.50 when rounded to hundredths.

5. In order to avoid the impact of exaggerated weights, no single evaluation should be weighted more than three times. Units tests, quizzes, projects, homework papers, and other class assignments pertaining to subject matter are to be given varying grade weights according to the material covered. At the beginning of the course, the teacher will communicate his/her system of grade weights to the students and parents. Teachers are encouraged to frequently inform students of grade status to promote self-evaluation and pacing.
6. In addition to the averaging of test scores, the grading process is to include evaluation of homework, classwork, class participation/activities and neatness of assigned work. The process is to be communicated to students and parents.
7. Since there are no semester exams in sixth and seventh grade, there will be no semester grade. The four, nine-week letter grades will be averaged for the final yearly grade.

8. While the averaging of grades suffices in most cases, extreme variations in performance will be evaluated on an individual basis with approval for the final grade being given by the local school administration.
9. During each marking period a student who fails to complete 65% of the assigned, evaluated work will be subject to failure. The teacher may request an exception to this regulation and, with the concurrence of the principal, may pass the student for that marking period.

CARNEGIE UNIT FOREIGN LANGUAGE CLASSES

Some middle schools offer sixth graders the opportunity to take a Carnegie unit foreign language course over a two-year time period. These students will be graded using the high school grading scale.

The 1A grade (at the end of the sixth grade year) is treated as the first semester grade. The 1B grade (at the end of the seventh grade year) is treated as the second semester grade. These two grades are combined to determine the yearly grade.

Credit is withheld until the entire course, 1A and 1B, has been completed. The final grade and associated credit is documented on the transcript.

EIGHTH GRADE CLASSES

1. The high school numerical grading scale will be used for all eighth grade students.
2. Teachers of non-Carnegie classes will average numerically the two nine-week grades for a semester grade. The final yearly grade will be a numerical average of the two semester grades.

The Director of Curriculum and Staff Development and the Associate Superintendent for Instruction will be responsible for the implementation and monitoring of this regulation.