

Mesa Academy Grading Practices 2020-2021

All teachers at Mesa Academy have committed to the following grading practices in alignment with the MPS strategic goal. Mesa Academy teachers have agreed that implementing school-wide, consistent grading practices will allow for greater clarity, communication and transparency for students and parents. You may want to download the Synergy Parent Vue app to your phone for convenient access to the MPS Portal/ParentVue. Please communicate any questions or concerns regarding grades or grading practices to your student's teacher.

Zeros

Zeros may be marked as "missing" (or "incomplete" or "absent") to act as a placeholder until the end-of-quarter deadline. During Remote Learning teachers will connect with students to provide extra support with getting work submitted. During In Person learning, students may be referred to the counselor to attend the Success Center or lunch tutoring to provide support with getting work submitted. Zeros will remain as a zero (assuming all reasonable effort has been made to get completed work in from student) with a "missing" label after the quarter deadline.

Late Work

- Students are expected to complete all assignments by the posted deadlines.
- If a deadline extension is needed, students must contact their teacher to make the request. This must be done by email during Remote Learning.
- Late work will be accepted up until one week prior to the end of each grading period. Late work deadlines are as follows:
 - September 25, 2020 (Q1)
 - December 11, 2020 (Q2)
 - February 26, 2021 (Q3)
 - May 13, 2021 (Q4)
- Late assignments will not be accepted for any assignments after the late work deadlines.
- In the Grade Portal:
 - Assignments will be marked as "missing" with zero credit given until the assignment is submitted.
 - Once submitted, assignments will be marked "late".
 - Late work will be graded by the teacher after all on-time work is graded and recorded.

Redos/Retakes

Students who seek to redo or retake an assignment or assessment will contact their teacher to request a retake. The teacher and student will determine which preparation activities (ie. using a different study technique or fixing their mistakes) would benefit the student to promote success on the redo/retake. The student will then complete the preparation activities and contact the teacher for approval before the redo/retake is permitted. After the redo/retake has occurred, the student will see their new score in the Portal (unless the new score is lower). The highest score earned will be entered in the Portal.

Homework (District Policies IKB, IKB-R)

- Assigning homework that deepens students' understanding of standards and expectations and is aligned to learning standards.
- Utilizing homework as a formative assessment that focuses more on the process than on the final result.
- Using homework for feedback on student progress and improvement toward mastery of standards.
- Providing homework to students for additional practice toward mastery of standards that may or may not be included in the gradebook.

Assessments

- Using summative assessments to measure student achievement and progress.
- Using ongoing and daily common formative assessments to guide instruction.
- Providing quality, timely feedback to students and parents.
- Basing grades on a body of evidence aligned to standards.
- Providing multiple ways for students to demonstrate proficiency.
- Focusing on quality of assessments not quantity.

Behavior-driven Grading

- Reporting behaviors separately from academic grades.
- Explicitly teaching behavioral expectations (i.e. honor code, responsibility, honesty, respect, PBIS).
- Providing positive reinforcement and ongoing descriptive feedback on classroom conduct.
- Providing additional supports and interventions for students not meeting expectations.
- No extra credit.