

Hello Parents and Guardians,

I am writing to inform you of our grading policy for 2014-2015 school year. This new grading system will better explain to you and your student their progress in mastering the standards in Biology. *Standards* are main ideas that we will be teaching throughout the school year.

Here is what you need to know:

There are two ways that we measure student progress: formative and summative assessments.

Formative assessments – provide an opportunity to check in on your student’s progress. Students are given feedback and often a numerical score, but these do not count towards the student’s final grade. These assessments allow a student to know whether or not they are on track with learning for that specific objective.

Summative assessments – act as the conclusive measure of the student’s work and are the only scores that count towards the student’s final grade. There may be more than one summative assessment for a specific objective. It is up to the teacher’s discretion as to whether the most recent summative assessment or all points of the summative assessments will be used for each unit.

The following marks will be used to grade the summative assessments:

Summative Grade	What does it mean?
4	Student demonstrates an advanced understanding of the target concept
3	Student demonstrates a proficient understanding of the target concept
2	Student demonstrates a developing understanding of the target concept
1	Student does not demonstrate an understanding of the target concept
M	Student did not attempt or completed less than 50% of the assessment.

For the Standard Grades –

The following marks will be used to grade each standard for the course:

Standard Grade	Criteria (you have to achieve this...)
4	Majority of summative assessment scores equal to 4 and no summative assessment scores lower than 3.
3	Majority of summative assessment scores equal to 3 and no summative assessment scores lower than 2.
2	Majority of summative assessment scores equal to 2 and no more than two summative assessment scores equal to 1.
1	Majority of summative assessment scores equal to 1 or more than three 1's on summative assessments.

For the Semester Final Grade for Biology–

The student's individual summative assessment grades will not be averaged together, but students will still receive letter grades for report cards. For the Fall semester there are 4 standards that will be assessed. We will use the following rubric to assign the grades:

A: A score of "4" in 3 of the academic standards and a "3" in the remaining standard.

B: A score of "3" in 3 of the academic standards and a "2" or "4" in the remaining standard.

C: A score of "2" in 3 of the academic standards and a "3" or "4" in the remaining standard.

D: A score of "2" in 3 of the academic standards and a "1" in the remaining standard.

E: A score of "1" in 2 or more of the academic standards.

What does this mean for Infinite Campus?

It means that there will not be an in-progress grade posted on the main screen in Infinite Campus. Your student's teacher will weekly post a pass/fail grade for eligibility and grades will be posted for the quarter. However, if you look at your student's grades on each of the

summative assessments, you can use the above rubric to determine your child's current grade. If you have a question on how or why your student received a particular grade, the rubrics used to grade each assessment will be attached to the assessment. (remember, only the summative assessments count towards the final grade)

How can I help my student?

Ensure that your student is keeping up with their work in class and ask questions like, "What standard are you working on in class?" Instead of asking if they have any homework.

What happens if my student would like to retake an assessment?

Your student can reassess on any standard. Before being allowed to reassess they need to show evidence of continued learning. The procedure for this is as follows:

1. Any missing assignments or intervention work (as assigned by instructor) must be completed and turned in to the instructor within 48 hours of receiving their test grade.
2. The students will have one week from receiving their test grade to retake the assessment. This can be completed during their lunch, study hall, or scheduled with a teacher before or after school.
3. If the student fails to complete any of the requirements of the reassessment during this time period, they can only retake the assessment after entering into a contract with their instructor. (Please note, the work required from the student-teacher contract will be more involved than the original assessment).
4. All reassessments must be completed 2 weeks prior to the end of the semester

So what role does homework play in your class?

Homework acts as continued practice. Homework might be assigned on a sporadic basis but that does not mean that your student should not work on Biology on a nightly basis. They should ***always*** have something to review. Suggestions for review activities include: reviewing vocabulary, annotating their notes or watching videos online about the topic.

How can my student get extra help when they are struggling?

A Biology teacher is usually available everyday after school. Students should come to the science office for help after school if their teacher is unavailable. The days your student's teacher is available will be posted in his/her classroom. Your student can also get help through Maroons Achieve, an in-school, daily tutoring program at EHS, which they can attend during their lunch period or study hall. They can also go to Club Elgin, an after-school tutoring program held here, at EHS, everyday after school.