



Holmes Middle School
A Next Generation Learning School
Personalizing Education and Igniting the Passion for Learning!

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RE: Grade Correlation Changes

Dear Parents,

Holmes Middle School is shifting toward competency-based learning and grading practices. This shift has used a 4-pt. grading scale intended to define student performance levels as outlined by the Colorado Academic Standards. The four levels of performance are “Beginning the Standard” (1), “Approaching the Standard” (2), “Meeting the Standard” (3), and “Exceeding the Standard” (4). Student performance and feedback should always be measured against this 4-pt scale. When competency-based practices are done correctly, the focus should be on student learning and growth in performance, not on the accumulation of points or percent correct as in the traditional system.

Some teachers have begun using the 4-pt. scale and competency-based processes this year. Because **Q** (Parent Connect) does not support competency-based reporting, teachers using a 4-pt. scale must translate their marks and final grades into the traditional A, B, C, D method. Unfortunately, this translation resulted in a misalignment between the 4-pt. scale and the letter grades being reported for the first three quarters. This misalignment resulted in grades being inflated, particularly concerning grades of C or lower. It is important to note that the grades currently on record for quarters 1, 2 and 3 will not be changed. However, beginning fourth quarter (March 13, 2017) the correlation between the 4-pt scale and letter grades will be as follows:

Average of Summative Competency-based Performances for the Marking Period	Corresponding Letter Grade
3.6 – 4.0	A
3.1 – 3.5	B
2.6 – 3.0	C
2.0 – 2.5	D
1.9 or Less	F

What does this mean? Students, particularly on the lower end of the grading scale (D’s and F’s), will have to increase their performance during fourth quarter to earn a passing grade. Overall, this will be a more accurate reflection of each student’s academic knowledge and skills. For 8th grade students, this means that their 4th quarter marks will be the most important grades being reported to high schools for placement into appropriate classes.

If you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at 328 – 3802.

Sincerely,

Rob Utter

Principal, Holmes MS