

Murray Language Academy Middle School Assessment System

“The assessor is obligated to understand the student’s point of view in order to validly assess the student’s grasp of things---a far cry from the typical ‘gotch!’ test”—**From *Assessing Student Performance* by Grant P. Wiggins**

Scope of this Policy

This grading system covers the four (4) core subjects in grades 5-8: Mathematic. Reading, Science, and Social Studies. A grading system for all other subjects will be developed by the content teachers and subject to principal approval.

Introduction

Students’ overall final grades are based on a pure 10-point numeric grading scale:

- 90-100 A
- 80-89 B
- 70-79 C
- 60-69 D
- < 60 F

The overall grade is determined by the following criteria by subject:

5th – 8th Mathematics				
Quarterly Grade (Every 10 Weeks)				
Category	% Weight	Minimum # of Grades	Can Turn in late	Re-Take if Failed*
Performance Assessments	50	7	See Late work Policy	See Retake Policy
Classwork	35	5	See Late work Policy	N\A
Homework	15	10	See Late work Policy	N\A

5th – 8th Reading				
Quarterly Grade (Every 10 Weeks)				
Category	% Weight	Minimum # of Grades	Can Turn in late	Re-Take if Failed*
Research Projects	10	2	See Late work Policy	See Retake Policy
Performance Assessments	20	7	N/A	See Retake Policy

Classwork/Participation	40	5	N/A	See Retake Policy
Accelerated Reader	10	2	N/A	See Retake Policy
Homework	20	10	See Late work Policy	N\A

5th – 8th Science				
Quarterly Grade (Every 10 Weeks)				
Category	% Weight	Minimum # of Grades	Can Turn in late	Re-Take if Failed*
Performance Assessments	30	4	See Late work Policy	See Retake Policy
Projects and Labs	25	5	See Late work Policy	See Retake Policy
Classwork/ Participation	35	5	See Late work Policy	See Retake Policy
Homework	10	10	See Late work Policy	N\A

5th – 8th Writing				
Quarterly Grade (Every 10 Weeks)				
Category	% Weight	Minimum # of Grades	Can Turn in late	Re-Take if Failed*
Writing Projects	20	1	See Late work Policy	See Retake Policy
Performance Assessments	20	5	See Late work Policy	See Retake Policy
Classwork/ Participation	40	5	See Late work Policy	See Retake Policy
Homework	20	10	See Late work Policy	N\A

5th – 8th Social Studies				
Quarterly Grade (Every 10 Weeks)				
Category	% Weight	Minimum # of Grades	Can Turn in late	Re-Take if Failed*
Performance Assessments	40	4	See Late work Policy	See Retake Policy
Classwork/ Participation	20	5	See Late work Policy	See Retake Policy
Homework	20	10	See Late work Policy	N\A

Performance Assessments

- Unit (chapter) test and major quizzes
- Unit or major performance tasks – mainly products, performances, and projects (e.g., essays; representations; models; multimedia; oral presentations; lab experiences.)

Classwork

- Independent or group practice on daily work (daily assignments and classroom work)
- Brief progress checks (e.g., small quizzes over one lessons; reviews or warm-ups)

Homework

Homework is an effective tool for practicing learning/skills, developing study habits, and demonstrating increasing levels of responsibility. It is an extension of the instructional process and involves the home in the student's curriculum.

- Homework must be purposeful, related to classroom experiences, and be age and grade appropriate.
- The directions for the assignment must be clearly communicated and preceded by instruction that adequately prepares the student to do the task independently and successfully.
- Homework is not an appropriate venue to introduce new concepts to students. Students are expected to complete all homework assignments.
- Following parent notification, students may be required to come before or after school to complete late homework assignments.

Grading Homework

Homework will be graded in a variety of ways depending upon the purpose or intent of the assignment.

- At times, checking for completion is appropriate.
- At other times, a complete analysis of procedure, content, and/or correct answers is appropriate.
- Graded assignments should be returned to the student in a timely manner.

Retake if Failed

For a student that makes a failing grade on a major project, test or assessment, the student will be given an opportunity for re-teach, reassess or redo a part of the major project. At the teacher's discretion, a grade of up to 80% or an average of the first assessment grade and the reassessment, but not higher than an 80%, will be assigned.

Late Work

The assignment of zeros (0) should be the very last result since this indicates that a critical step in the learning process was not completed by the students. Therefore, every effort is made to ensure that students consistently complete all assignments. The table below represents the maximum penalty that may be imposed for turning in late work:

Days Late	Late Percent of Grade Received by	Student Example(s)
1 day	90% (take off 10% of actual grade)	100 records as 90 (100 x 0.10 = 10 points off) 80 records as 72 (80 x 0.10 = 8 points off) 60

		records as 54 ($60 \times 0.10 = 6$ points off)
2 days	80% (take off 20% of actual grade)	100 records as 80 ($100 \times 0.20 = 20$ points off) 80 records as 64 ($80 \times 0.20 = 16$ points off) 60 records as 48 ($60 \times 0.20 = 12$ points off)
3 days	70% (take off 30% of actual grade)	100 records as 70 ($100 \times 0.30 = 30$ points off) 80 records as 56 ($80 \times 0.30 = 24$ points off) 60 records as 42 ($60 \times 0.30 = 18$ points off)
4 or more days	0%	No credit will be given; a grade of zero will be recorded. Chronic abuse, more than three late assignments during any one grading period, may result in additional consequences.

- Extenuating circumstances may occur that are out of the control of the student and which prevent him/her from completing and returning assignments. The student is to inform the teacher of any such circumstances that prevented the completion of the assignment. Teachers may grant exceptions to this policy, as appropriate or necessary.
- Following parent notification, it may be required to come before school or stay after school to complete late assignments.

Re-teach and Reassess:

The use of formative assessments, teacher-made tests, performance assessments, and/or teacher observations will determine which students are not mastering instructional objectives.

- Teachers will monitor and identify students who need re-teaching.
- Teachers will provide interventions, including but not limited to, re-teaching as necessary.
- Students will be reevaluated after re-teaching has occurred. Reevaluation may include, but is not limited to, oral examination, special assignments or formal testing.

Make Up Work

Students shall be permitted to make up assignments and tests following any absence. All students will receive credit for satisfactory makeup work after an absence, including excused and unexcused absences and absences due to suspension.

- Makeup work is available to all students.
- A student will be given as many days as he/she was absent to make up tests and other missed assignments.
- Students shall receive full credit for satisfactory makeup work after an absence received within the allotted time. If a student does not complete the work assigned after the allotted number of days/class periods has passed, then the assignment is considered late work (see Late Work Policy).
- Makeup work, including tests, may be of an altered version to assess what the student has learned to assure that students who have been absent have sufficient opportunity to master the tasks.
- Students are expected to turn in all assignment upon return to school. If a student does not turn in assignments, the late policy goes into effect.

Grading in Parent Portal

Grades serve as a key measure of a student's progress and are an essential piece of information for parents to monitor their children's progress. Parents need, and students must have, timely graded assignments recorded in Gradebook that represent the progress for each 5-week marking period. The purpose is to set the minimum number of grades teachers should input into the Gradebook system for each subject taught.

I. 5th and 6th

a. Math, Reading, Social Studies and Science

1. Enter at least 2 grades per week; and
2. By the end of each 10-week interval, each category must have at least one grade

II. 7th and 8th

a. Math, Reading, Social Studies and Science

1. Enter at least 2 grades per week; and
2. By the end of each 10-week interval, each category must have at least one grade

ENFORCEMENT OF THIS POLICY

The Principal of Murray Language Academy will monitor the compliance of this policy and may issue a written or verbal notice to teachers that are non-compliant.