



Bluffton Middle School Grading Policy 2017-18

Grading Principles

BLMS strives to maintain grading practices that are common for the same course or grade level subject. Students will be provided with common classroom experiences and course expectations by their grade level teachers. Teachers will administer graded assessments in each weighted category (minimum of 1 grade weekly per formative assessment and 1 grade every two weeks per summative assessment). Gradebooks should be organized by standard based categories to coincide with curriculum maps. Consistent feedback will be provided to students and parents on assessments to ensure continuous communication on student progress. Students will be given the opportunity to retake assessments at teacher discretion in order to demonstrate content proficiency. Through Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) grade level teachers will collaborate to design appropriate grading instruments to evaluate student work. Teachers will use assessment grades as tools to support student learning with appropriate feedback, re-teaching, and opportunities to improve performance.

Grading Scale: Numerical grades are mandated in SC Middle Schools and the minimum passing grade is 60%. A = 90-100%, B = 80-89%, C = 70-79%, D = 60-69% F=0-59%

Honor Roll

Principal's Honor Roll = Students must receive all A's in all classes.

Honor Roll = Students must receive all A's and B's in all classes.

Grading Periods

All student grades are posted in PowerSchool. Official reporting periods are determined for each school year and listed on the school calendar. Students and parents/guardians can access student grades via the PowerSchool Portal at any time, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Visit our webpage, then Parents, then Parent Portal for more information.

Progress Reports

Progress reports are sent home to parents/guardians of all students at the midpoint of each quarter. The purpose of these reports is to communicate student progress in all classes.

Distribution dates are indicated on the calendar in the months of September, November, February and April.

Report Cards

Report cards are sent home at the end of each quarter. Distribution dates are indicated on the calendar in the months of October, January, March and May.

Failure/Remediation

A student in grades 6-7-8 fails a particular subject for the school year if the student's final average in that subject is below 60%. Retention (repeating the grade level) will be considered when a student earns a failing grade in English, math, science or social studies (1-2 failures will require summer school participation, but 3 or more failures will result in retention). In addition, students may be retained if they do not meet attendance requirements of Beaufort County School District. Parents are encouraged to check Parent Portal for up to date student coursework and monitor progress. Teachers will contact parents when the student drops below a 70% as well as send interim reports and report cards at the scheduled time.

Grade Changes

Grades cannot be changed without following district-established procedures which include explicit consent of the teacher. The district follows the statewide guidelines for grading/assessment.

Grade Floor

Student grades are recorded as earned. BLMS does not include a grade floor in the grading policy. Students who are scoring below 70 consistently on assignments, tests, and quizzes will be referred for possible support or intervention through the RTI process.

Homework

Homework is viewed as an extension of classroom activity. Homework will be in harmony with the child's needs and abilities and will not be given for disciplinary reasons. Teachers should recognize that home and outside activities have educational value and therefore should not overburden students with homework. Assignments must be carefully planned, appropriate to the student's grade level and be well understood by the student before he/she leaves school. Allowances should be made for individual differences in interests and abilities. Although all homework assignments need not be formally graded, teachers are expected to evaluate the student's homework performance to assess the student's needs and/or level of mastery.

Late Work

For excused (Lawful) absences, students will be granted the opportunity to make-up any missed assignments and /or work due to the absence(s). This will include quizzes, test, writing assignments etc. The period for making up the work will be a minimum of one (1) class day for each class day missed to a maximum of one week. For example, if a student misses two days of school (Monday and Tuesday) and returns on Wednesday, then Thursday and Friday will be granted as make-up days for missing Monday and Tuesday (one day for each day missed). In this example, all missed assignments or work (test, quiz etc.) would not be due until Monday. Students who have unexcused absences may be given the opportunity to make up work at the discretion of the principal and teacher during make-up sessions, however, the unexcused absence remains in the student's record.

Retesting

Students needing to achieve content mastery may retest at teacher discretion following a student-teacher conference and reteach of identified skill weaknesses.

Core Subjects (Math, ELA, Science, and Social Studies)

Summative	60%	The goal for summative assessment is to evaluate student learning at the end of an instructional unit.	Tests, projects, presentations, performance tasks, DBQs, essays, science projects, and lab reports.
Formative	40%	The goal of formative assessments is to monitor student learning and provide ongoing feedback. Adjustments to instructional strategies and activities may be implemented to further comprehension.	Journals, notebooks, warm-ups, classwork, quizzes, closure activities, homework, and classwork.

Explore/Discover Team

Visual Arts		
Summative	60%	Projects,
Formative	40%	Classwork, quizzes, skills building, warm-ups
Physical Education		
Summative	60%	Skills assessment
Formative	40%	Skills Practice & Building, quizzes, warm-ups, closure activities
Music		
Summative	60%	Playing and written tests
Formative	40%	Performances, daily technique assessment, practice charts
Gateway to Technology		
Summative	60%	Projects, tests
Formative	40%	Classwork, skill building activities, quizzes, homework
Exploratory Spanish		
Summative	60%	Tests, quizzes, projects
Formative	40%	Classwork, Rosetta Stone, homework