WMS Grade Standardization

At Watkins Middle School, our grading philosophy reflects our commitment to fostering meaningful learning experiences and supporting every student's academic growth. Grades serve as a clear and constructive communication tool for students, parents, and teachers, focusing on knowledge acquisition, skill mastery, and progress over time. Our grading policy is designed to ensure that assessments are fair, reflective of learning, and free from punitive measures or compliance-based evaluations.

Core Principles

- *Grades should reflect a student's demonstration of knowledge*. As a result, **90%** of the student grade will consist of **performance** based assessments (formative/summative assessments, projects, performances, presentations, etc.). The remaining **10%** will fall under the category of **practice** (homework, classwork, etc). Each department has outlined grading breakdowns for subject areas in the chart below.
- *Learning is a process. Opportunities for reassessment and revision should be provided to ensure mastery of content or skills*. A component of reteaching should occur prior to offering retake opportunities. The retake policy and reteaching component will be left to the discretion of the teacher. The act of revising projects, works of art, or engineering designs fall with the practice of gold standard project based learning.
- *Grades serve as a means to provide clear feedback to students and parents, identifying both areas of strength and areas for growth*. Teachers should maintain consistent ongoing communication and feedback with students and families. District guidelines for grading expectations must be abided by. Students will demonstrate accountability by communicating their grades weekly via email to their parents to keep them informed of their progress and plans for improvement.
- *Grades should be fair, equitable, and free from punitive measures*. Grades should not be over inflated through compliance activities or extra credit assignments, nor should grades singularly destroy the overall trend performance of a student. The WMS building policy of a 50% grading floor has been discontinued for the 25-26 school year. Individual classroom teachers should refer to the retake policy regarding students with underperforming grades.

Watkins Middle School
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Grade Weights by subject

Subject area	Grading weights
Language Arts	**6th Grade Humanities** **90%**- 20% roots & stems, 70% assessments/ performance **10%**- Bell ringers, homework, practice tasks. **Social Studies grade averaged from overall points **7th Grade ELA** **90%**- (65% Reading/Writing, assessments, essays, etc. 25% roots & stems) **10%**- Classwork/Homework **8th Grade ELA** **90%**- (60% Evaluation/Assessment, 30% application) **10%**- Homework/ Classwork
Math	**90%**-Evaluation (Quiz, Test, Project) **10%**-Knowledge/Practice (Homework/Classwork)
Social Studies	**90%**- 40% Application (Projects/Essays), 40% Assessment (Tests/Quizzes), 10% CQA **10%**-Knowledge (Homework/Classwork)
Science	**90%**- 55% Performance tasks (Assessments), 25% Learning tasks (Labs, projects, simulations, stations), 10% CQA **10%**- Knowledge (Science starters, homework, activities)
Music	**Orchestra** **90%**- Assessments/ Demonstration of skill **10%**- CQA **Choir** **90%**- 80% Summative, 10% Formative assessment and daily performance. **10%**- CQA **Band** **90%**- 45% Demonstration of skill, 20% Performance, 20% Knowledge checks, 5% Home practice **10%**- CQA
The Arts	**90%**- 60% Projects/Performance, 30% Assessments **10%**- Quick Checks (Homework)

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Physical Education/ Weightlifting	**70%**- Daily Points (Participation) **30%**- Projects
STEM/Elective Classes	**<u>Engineering</u>** **90%**-Engineering/Design process, work **10%**-Classwork **<u>Computer Science</u>** **90%**-Computer skills/Projects **10%**-Classwork **<u>Environmental Sustainability/ AFNR</u>** **90%**- Projects, Labs, Assessments **10%**- Participation, Classwork **<u>Careers</u>** **90%**- 50% Performance Zone (Assessment, Projects), 40% Learning Zone (Activities, presentations, Career readiness standards) **10%**- Classwork, Homework
Electives (Warrior Press/ Yearbook)	90%- 10%-
English Language Learner Grading Guidelines: Ohio Department of Education	

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