

### Clear Creek Amana Middle School Mission Statement for Grading

At Clear Creek Amana Middle School we strive to ensure that the letter grade a student achieves is based on true assessments and that the grade represents learning.

### Clear Creek Amana Middle School Grading Principles

1. Differentiation of instruction is essential in order for students to grow and progress.
2. We value our students' attendance, behavior, cooperation, motivation, and positive attitude.
3. Grades will be based on what the student is able to show they have learned. Therefore, extra credit will not be given at any time.
4. Retakes and revisions of assessments are allowed.
5. Students will be allowed multiple opportunities to demonstrate proficiency in various ways. When proficiency is demonstrated, students will be given the opportunity to extend their learning.
6. Students are expected to complete all assigned work.
7. There will be times that students are expected to do practice work outside of the school day.
8. Independent practice will be meaningful, purposeful, of high quality and aligned with learning goals.
9. Teachers will determine proficiency by considering multiple points of data using the most recent data and provide evidence to support their determination.
10. Students will have multiple opportunities for practice before the learning goals are assessed for a proficiency score.

### Clear Creek Amana Middle School Grading Terms

1. **Learning Goal-** learning goals are the foundation for all of our lessons and assessments. The learning goals should match our Iowa Core Standards.
  - Example learning goal from social studies-
    - The students will understand how physical processes and human actions modify the environment and how the environment affects humans.
2. **Success Criteria-** success criteria should be observable and/or measurable. Success criteria are what the students are asked to show their ability to do. Normally success criteria are written using "I can" statements.
  - Example success criteria from social studies-
    - I can describe how the physical features of Australia impact population density.
3. **Rubric-** a rubric is a scoring tool that lists the criteria for a piece of work. For example, a rubric for an essay might tell students that their work will be judged on purpose, organization, details, voice, and mechanics. A good rubric also describes levels of quality for each of the criteria, usually on a point scale.
4. **Differentiated Instruction-** is what teachers do to meet the needs of diverse learners.

### Clear Creek Amana Middle School Grading Rubric

Students will be assessed on a four (4) point rubric. Explanation of the rubric is below.

Statement	Rubric Number	Percentage/Grade	Comment
Advanced Proficient	4	100%/A	The student met all criteria for the learning goal and went beyond the expectations.
Proficient	3.5	87.5%/B	The student is meeting the learning goal(s) expectations.
Developing	3	75%/C	The student is progressing towards proficiency but needs more practice to meet all the learning goal(s).

Not Proficient	2		The student needs to be re-taught the material.
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Note: If a student does not work with the teacher to relearn the material, the grade of incomplete will eventually be recorded as an F. It is our hope that all students will be successful and work with the teacher to move as far on the rubric as possible.

## **Clear Creek Amana Middle School Grading Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Why has the middle school decided to change how students are graded?**

As a middle school our teachers and administration feel that we can improve our practices of reporting grades. After much study as a staff we feel that our students and families are entitled to a more clear and consistent system to grade and assess our students. We feel that we need to create a system that is a more accurate reflection of what the students are learning. (Reporting assessment scores will now be broken down into individual learning goal areas. This replaces the past practice of reporting one general test score.)

### **What are grades for?**

Grades are designed to assess where students are performing individually as compared to the learning goals and success criteria.

### **What does it mean to report student grades based on standards?**

As a district our middle school has curriculum standards (Iowa Core) that our students are progressing towards within our classrooms. The standard/learning goal tells the teacher, student, and parent what the learning outcomes should be. The teacher then reports grades based on the students learning progress and attainment of the learning goals and mastery of the curriculum standards.

### **Are the learning goals the same for every student?**

In some cases students do not have the same learning goals. If a student is significantly below peers the learning goal may be altered and be more aligned to the student's level.

### **After an assessment are the students allowed to improve on their assessment score?**

After a student is assessed they are allowed to work with the teacher or another student to improve their learning and understanding of the assessed learning goal/success criteria. They then have the opportunity to be assessed again to improve their grade. (Students that are assessed using the rubric who score below the 3 level will be required to relearn the material)

### **Will Clear Creek Amana Middle School still have letter grades?**

Yes. Our school will continue to report letter grades (A, B, C, and incomplete) to the student and parents. When a student has a grade of incomplete they must relearn the material and then be assessed again.

### **Will Clear Creek Amana Middle School still have an honor roll?**

Yes. Our school will publish an honor roll after the conclusion of each trimester.

### **Will Clear Creek Amana Middle School students still have homework?**

Yes. The students will continue to have work assigned to them as "practice work." This work will be aligned with the subjects learning goals and success criteria. The work will be meaningful and help the student progress towards their learning goals. The "practice work" may look different for different students based on where the individual student is at within the learning process.