

Getting to Know the New Grade Scale

This year at AHS, grades will be given as letters (A, B, C, etc) as opposed to numbers (94, 87, 75), and GPA will be reported on a 0-4.3 scale as opposed to a 0-100 scale.

Our new grade scale is designed to be more accurate, consistent, and supportive of student learning. This system helps students know what they are being graded on and ensures grades reflect what students know and can do. By shifting to a 4.3 scale, we ensure fairness, clarity, and alignment with post-secondary expectations while fostering a learning environment that prioritizes mastery over completion.

Philosophy

- **Fair and Accurate Assessments:** Grades are reported using a standardized scale across all courses for consistency and equity.
- **Encourages Growth:** Students will have opportunities to learn through practice, receive meaningful feedback on academic achievement and work habits, and demonstrate additional learning according to our guidelines.
- **Real-World Preparation:** Our system aligns with college grading and workplace evaluations to better prepare students for future success.
- **Focus on Learning:** Grades reflect student's knowledge and skills.

Grade Scale

Grade	Level	Description
A	Exemplary	Student consistently demonstrates mastery independently with complex examples and can explain and transfer learning.
B	Proficient	Student consistently meets targets independently, but may need support with complex tasks.
C	Developing	Student demonstrates understanding with support, inconsistently, or with less complex materials.
D	Emerging	Student shows partial understanding but requires significant support.
F	Not Yet	Student has not yet demonstrated emerging level understanding.

Frequently Asked Questions

Can my child get an “Exemplary” grade if they ask questions in class?

Yes. Be reassured that students *have always* been encouraged to ask questions. During everyday classroom experiences, questions are an essential part of the learning process, and we want students to ask them! That said, it's also important to clarify that **during assessments**—when students are being asked to independently show what they can do—teachers have *always* limited the types of questions they can answer.

During tests, students can certainly ask clarifying questions (example: Do I need to show my work for this math problem?), but sometimes students ask questions that go beyond clarification (example: Can you tell me the steps to solve this problem?), and if teachers answer those questions it impacts a student's ability to demonstrate their learning independently. Again, this practice is not related to a particular grade scale; it's a long standing expectation that ensures grades reflect what students know and can do.

What about effort?

Effort, participation, and work habits are key parts of learning and growth. While grades reflect **academic achievement**, effort and work habits directly impact student achievement. Feedback on work habits and their connection to student performance, provided through written and verbal communication, report card comments, and on practice assignments, can help students focus their effort to improve their understanding of course work.

Will this hurt my child's college applications?

No. Colleges already understand the 4.3 grading scale. Our scale gives a more accurate GPA and shows colleges how your student performs on meaningful learning targets. Admissions officers want to see students who can apply their learning and then take this into account in relation to the other components of the application.

Will this help with college and careers?

Absolutely. The scale reflects real-world expectations: independence, problem-solving, and mastery. Colleges and employers look for these qualities.

Additional questions?

Please reach out to your student's house assistant principal. We are here to help!