

Grading Policy

At Hampton we believe that all students will succeed when educated in a positive and challenging learning environment. Grades, although essential for communicating academic progress in a universal meaningful way, often evoke negative reactions especially since grades are new to fourth graders. Consequently, we encourage students to view grades as constructive. To accomplish this, we give students ample opportunities to be successful and strive to make grading practices supportive of student learning. It is recommended that grades be reviewed in Schoology not more frequently than on a weekly basis.

As per BCPS policy, “students will have multiple opportunities to demonstrate proficiency.” All concepts are modeled by the teacher, practiced with teacher guidance, and practiced with peer and teacher support. Students are then expected to be able to demonstrate mastery independently. Not all students grasp concepts after undertaking these steps, so more reteaching may be necessary in an individual or small group setting. This is often accomplished during class and students are given more time in school to successfully complete an assignment. Students may still not be successful but often learn from the mistakes they make on assignments. Students are therefore given opportunities to resubmit assignments that do not demonstrate their best efforts. If students are not proud of a grade they receive, they may ask for assistance in understanding the skill or concept or use the comments written by the teacher to correct their mistakes then correct and resubmit an assignment for a better grade. The goal here is learning resulting from self-evaluation. When such assignments are graded, the grade will be entered in Schoology with the comment “corrections made”. The comment may also state that the skill needed to be retaught.

The lowest grade a student can receive at Hampton is 50%. The logic behind this is that many assignments at the intermediate elementary level have few questions or problems which results in very low percentages with only a few incorrect answers. Very low percentage greatly effect the overall percentage thus making it very hard to improve the overall average. Capping the lowest score at 50% enables students to show deserved improvement. In such cases you will see a comment with the grade that states, “low score given; actual score...” Should you see such a comment, it is expected that the assignment will be resubmitted for a better grade and that the student will seek assistance if needed and/or use the hints or questions written by the teacher to improve their score. The goal here is for students to self-advocate. Once the resubmitted assignment is graded and the grade entered in Schoology, the comment will be amended to show that the assignment was resubmitted.

When graded assignments are returned to students, students are directed to compare the grade on the assignment with the grade in Schoology. They are encouraged to let the teacher know of any discrepancy they found. Grades will only be corrected, or changed in the case of resubmissions, if they benefit the student. We want students to realize their role in their education and that their education is a partnership between them, the teacher, and the parent and that they should not fear advocating for themselves.

Students have until the next to last day of the marking period to submit missing assignments and complete assignments that are marked incomplete. When viewing the grades in Schoology, if a student sees a missing assignment and a page out of the math text is included in the title of the assignment, they should find the page in the math text and submit the missing assignment as soon as possible. If the page is not in the textbok, access the page online by opening Schoology, choosing Instructional Tools, Pearson (green square; white P), clicking Realize, and finding the page in the table of contents. It is expected that students complete the assignment on a sheet of notebook paper with the page number, student's name, problem numbers, and solutions. If a missing assignment does not include a page number in the title, it was a worksheet or written assignment of some sort. Students should ask the teacher for a copy of the worksheet or directions for the written assignment which they should submit it as soon as possible. Once the missing assignment is graded, the grade will be entered in Schoology with the comment "late." Assignments coded incomplete have been, or will be, returned to students. Students are to complete the assignment as soon as possible and submit it. Once incomplete assignments are graded the grade will be entered in Schoology with the comment "Not completed in the allotted time".

Assignments are missing when they are not part of the bundle that was collected, graded, and entered in Schoology. If an assignment is not identified with a student's name, and it cannot otherwise be identified, it is thrown away. Assignments are incomplete because the student did not have time to finish the assignment in the allotted time. Every effort is provided to give students ample time to finish an assignment.

Our goal is that all fourth-grade students succeed by demonstrating proficiency on the standards and develop strategies and habits that foster new learning.