

# Assessment Policy

Silver Spring International Middle School



## Philosophy

We believe that all students want to experience learning that is authentic, relevant, engaging and challenging. As an IB school, we believe that assessment is an ongoing process that is integral to teaching and learning, promotes lifelong learning, is transparent, allows for a variety of ways to show learning, and lends itself to the type of data analysis that drives instruction. As IB educators, we believe that our assessments must reflect the approaches to learning skills applied in the taught curriculum. We encourage our students to use assessments to identify academic progress and reflect on learning needs as a result of constructive feedback from teachers.

Our school follows the guidelines established by the Montgomery County Public School System (MCPS). Report card grades reflect overall achievement of MCPS standards for specific disciplines quarterly. Achievement grades are based on the following categories: homework completion, formative assessments and summative assessments. Teachers enter their grades regularly on Pinnacle, an internet based grading and attendance program. Students and parents may view grades through the Internet based MyMCPS Portal. Our IB teaching staff regularly attend professional development and are kept up to date on changes in IB assessment practices in their courses by the Coordinator.

## Assessment Practices

Formative assessments are administered throughout a unit of study. Formative assessments relate to the unit objectives and are used to measure student growth and needs. Staff use formative assessment data to determine student needs and if necessary, alter instruction. Students use formative assessment data to reflect on skills, content, and concepts learned and determine next steps. Summative assessment data is used to identify student achievement level based on the task-specific rubrics. The rubrics are used as a basis to provide on-going feedback to students. The rubrics are used to communicate student performance.

At Silver Spring International Middle School our assessments served to provide students with meaningful feedback over time and create authentic learning experiences.

As essential steps in assessment for learning, teachers will:

- Provide a variety of authentic assignments across all criteria in all content areas.
- Implement a variety of assessment strategies to meet the differentiated needs of students.
- Provide accommodations for students who are English Language Learners, who have Individualized Education Plans, and who receive special education accommodations through a 504 Plan

- Provide on-going continuity to monitor skill development over the year (when appropriate).
- Implement the Backward Design model of planning beginning with the criteria in mind.
- Communicate assessment criteria to parents and students at the onset of assignments.
- Use MCPS Common Tasks to align assessments to MYP criteria.

Grades are assigned using the scale below.

89.5 – 100%	A
79.5 – 89%	B
69.5 – 79%	C
59.5 – 69%	D
Below 59%	E

Our teachers organize continuous assessment in all classes based on the objectives of each group and subject. MYP units of inquiry are implemented across all grade levels in all subject groups. MCPS report cards are issued in November, January, April and June. MYP Progress Reports are issued after each semester.

This policy will be implemented in the following manner:

- a. It will be posted on the school IB web page so that stakeholders may view it at any time
- b. It will be included in the IB Manual which is distributed to students and parents at the start of the school year

This policy will be reviewed and revised each school year by the school leadership team.