

Standards-Based Grading and Reporting

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS • EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2006

Academic Grades

Grades reflect what students know and are able to do in relation to grade-level expectations.

Teachers assess student learning in a variety of ways:

- Grades are based on multiple measures over time.
- Learning is evaluated using varied tasks/assignments such as tests, projects, reports, teacher observation, and discussions.

Extra credit is not used.

Homework

Teachers provide feedback on homework that is assigned to practice new skills. Homework for practice is not part of the academic grade.

Homework for practice is reported as a learning skill.

Teachers can give feedback in writing or by talking with students individually or in groups.

Homework evaluated for learning may be included as part of the academic grade.

Learning Skills

Learning skills are reported separately from academic grades.

Grades 1–2 learning skills include—

- Effort
 - Task completion
 - Participation
- Behavior
 - Cooperation
 - Rules and Procedures

Grades 3–5 learning skills include—

- Effort
 - Task completion
 - Participation
 - Feedback
- Behavior
 - Teamwork
 - Rules and procedures

<http://www.mcps.k12.md.us/info/grading/>

Students receiving services for limited English proficiency, special education, or 504 disabilities will be afforded all accommodations and modifications as documented by English Language Learner (ELL) plan, Individualized Education Program (IEP), or Section 504 plan.

HOMEWORK POLICY STATEMENT

Philosophy

In its broadest meaning, homework can include all out-of-class work. It can be considered an integral part of a student's educational endeavor, a valuable and necessary task of learning for our youth. It can also be considered a logical extension of school work into the home.

Purposes

Homework serves the following valid purposes when it:

- *provides essential practice in needed skills.
- *trains pupils in good work habits.
- *affords opportunities for increasing self-direction.
- *enriches and extends school experience.
- *helps children learn to budget time.
- *brings pupils into contact with out-of-school learning resources.
- *promotes growth in responsibility.

Time Allotments

Homework will be assigned three to five times each week. The time allotted should increase gradually from grade to grade. Following is a list of average daily maximums:

Kindergarten: generally no homework

Grade 1: up to 15 minutes

Grade 2: up to 20 minutes

Grade 3: up to 30 minutes

Grade 4: up to 40 minutes

Grade 5: up to 50 minutes

Homework Hotline

Cable Channel 52 airs a live call-in TV show from 5:00 - 7:00 PM. This allows students at home to call MCPS teachers and ask questions on all subjects. Students with Cable TV can see the teacher as he or she explains a problem, but hotline teachers are also willing to work over the phone with students who do not have Cable TV. Students may call the hotline at 301-279-3234, Monday - Thursday from 4:30 to 7:30 PM.

HOMEWORK / REPORT CARDS

Guidelines and Procedures

The teacher will assign homework regularly three to five times a week. Homework will be determined by the child's needs and the units being presented at the time. If a child does not complete a homework assignment, he/she will stay in from recess to complete the assignment.

Procedures for Planning and Discussing Homework Assignments:

- Grades K-3
- Total group discussion for science and social studies. Reading and math assignments are given with small groups or to an individual.
 - Assignments are always discussed verbally with children. Examples of homework are done together so each child can do his/her work independently.
- Grades 4-5
- Homework assignments are given only after several class lessons have been given. It can be on an individual, small group, or total class basis. Assignments are written on the chalkboard and given orally. Children write assignments down. Children are shown errors in homework and are required to correct them.
 - The purpose of each assignment is outlined at the time it is given. These purposes include furnishing background information for discussions and experiments in science and reinforcement of material presented in language arts and math.
 - Most homework assignments are in direct relationship to the present subject matter and therefore, have been planned to supplement and enhance regular work. Therefore, they are explained and discussed as a regular part of instruction.

Procedures/Methods of Evaluating Homework:

- Grades K-3
- Homework is returned to a designated table. Teacher and students evaluate/grade worksheets and discuss books and projects.
 - Homework is evaluated on the basis of accuracy and neatness.
 - Homework is usually checked by the teachers and sometimes checked by the group with a group leader.
- Grades 4-5
- Some homework assignments are checked orally with the whole class (practice exercises). Other assignments are collected and checked by the teacher for subject mastery.
 - Children correct any error and when needed, more homework assignments are given.

REPORT CARDS

Report Cards and Conferences

The reporting system of MCPS has been developed and refined over the past several years. The report card is basically a list of the major subject areas. In grades 3 to 5: A, B, C, D, E are given, according to the child's success in achieving grade level objectives for each subject. In reading and math, a numeral (1 or 2 or 3) is used to indicate that the material being used is above grade level (1), at grade level (2), or below grade level (3). At the end of the first marking period, a parent-teacher conference is scheduled. Throughout the year requests by parents for conferences are encouraged. They should be arranged in advance with the teacher. Arrangements can be made by sending a note to the teacher or by calling the office.

Awards/Honor Roll

Teachers award their students continuously in the regular classroom. However, there are quarterly assemblies to recognize students as well.

All Students:

Perfect Attendance Awards goes to students who have not been absent or tardy.

Character Counts will be given weekly to one student per class who exhibits behaviors of the six pillars: respect, responsibility, caring, fairness, trustworthiness, and citizenship.

Grades 1-2:

Outstanding Students: More O's than S's and no N's.

Effort Award: No F's or R's on learning skills.

BUG Award: Brought up at least two grades.

Grades 3-5:

Honor Roll: More A's than B's (if one C, it can be balanced out by an A).

No D's or E's.

Effort Award: No F's or R's on learning skills.

BUG Award: Brought up at least two grades.

Student Government

The Student Government of South Lake Elementary School is a very active organization. Each year representatives are elected from each class.

Meetings are held regularly throughout the year. A faculty sponsor assists the Student Government in carrying out its function, such as designating certain school days as special days (e.g. Hat Day, Inside-Out Day, etc.), sponsoring a canned food drive and establishing other special events and drives.

Safety Patrols

The role of the Safety Patrol is offered to 4th and 5th grade students who have indicated a desire for the responsibilities of the position and who have been assessed as to their capabilities to handle the added responsibilities. A faculty sponsor assists the Safety Patrols in carrying out the following duties: (1) maintaining safety and discipline at bus stops, and (2) maintaining safety and discipline at school as the buses arrive or prepare to depart. Safety Patrol officers attend patrol camp for a week in August preceding the school year.