

**GRADING PHILOSOPHY
AND PROTOCOLS
Pelham School District**

Philosophy:

The Pelham School District recognizes the value of grading and report cards as critical parts of a comprehensive, multifaceted system of reporting on student academic achievement. The main purpose of a report card is to communicate to parents and others regarding student achievement. Report cards also serve to provide feedback to encourage student learning, and to identify or select students for certain educational courses or programs.

Academic grades at Pelham Memorial School (PMS) will reflect the degree to which a student has met the course curriculum standards at the time of reporting. These standards are established by the Common Core State Standards (CCSS), Next Generation Science Standards, NH Grade Level Expectations (GLE's), NH Grade Span Expectations (GSE's), and the district curriculum. These standards define what a student should know and be able to do after successfully completing a unit of study and ultimately the course of study.

PMS students will be provided with multiple learning activities and opportunities to learn, to practice, and to demonstrate the knowledge and skills necessary to meet with success. As needed, students will be provided with supplemental learning opportunities designed to help them demonstrate mastery of fundamentals or to enrich their learning as needed.

Protocols:

PMS students will be provided with course expectations for each class they are enrolled in. These expectations will describe anticipated learning outcomes and will offer an explanation of assessment strategies.

Quarterly grades at PMS will be based on category weights as follows*:

Summative Assessment	65%
Formative Assessment	35%

Note: Homework is a type of formative assessment. Homework will represent no more than 10% of a student's final grade.

*Due to the unique nature of the subject matter in each unified arts class, the unified arts teachers will provide a syllabus to all students and parents clearly describing how the trimester grade is derived, which may be different than the weights described above.

Definitions:

Formative Assessment is a process used by teachers and students during instruction that provides feedback to adjust ongoing teaching and learning to improve students' achievement of intended instructional outcomes. Instructional adjustments and adaptations can include reviewing material, alternative approaches to instruction, and additional practice. Feedback is also used to help students achieve their learning goals and takes the form of specific suggestions for improvement and discussion of errors rather than merely providing the correct answer.

Summative Assessment is a summary evaluation reached at the end of a topic, theme, unit, semester, term, or school year based on performances/products and formative assessment data. Specific learning outcomes and standards are the basis of our summative assessments, and our current A-F grading scale is the benchmark for reporting.

Homework

Students should expect a maximum of approximately 10 minutes of homework per night for each grade level (Grade 6 – 60 minutes, Grade 7-70 minutes and Grade 8-80 minutes). Teachers, students and parents must work together as follows to make homework a worthwhile learning activity:

Teacher Responsibility

- Homework will consist of practice, preparation, extension and/or integration
- Homework will have a clear academic connection, fulfill curricular goals and support students in developing responsibility, time management and other self-regulatory skills
- Homework will be preceded by an explanation of content, purpose and directions
- Timely, constructive, formal and/or informal feedback will be given on all assignments
- Every effort will be made for teachers to coordinate assignments

Parent and Guardian Responsibility

- Provide consistent time and place
- Check over the work your child is doing
- Remove distractions (television, cell phone, etc.)
- Support your child in planning for long term assignments
- Check teachers' websites and student agenda for assignments
- Check PowerSchool regularly

Student Responsibility

- Record all homework in agenda clearly with specific details and due dates
- Ask teacher during class for clarification on anything that you do not understand or are not clear about regarding assignments
- Complete homework carefully, place in designated spot for easy retrieval, bring to class and pass in on time
- Study for formative and summative assessments using study materials provided
- Determine a plan for completion of long-term assignments and work to complete them throughout the designated time frame
- Use rubrics provided by teachers to make sure that you have successfully completed all of the

components of the assignment

- Check your teachers' webpages for homework when absent and/or see teachers about what you missed when absent
- Check PowerSchool regularly

Retakes

PMS students are able to retake summative assessments as determined by the teacher in order to increase student knowledge and skills if the grade is below an 80%. The petition for a reassessment must be initiated within two school days after notification of grades and remediation must be completed before the end of the tenth school day. Students, parents or teachers can initiate the request for a retake. Prior to the retake, the student must complete required remediation steps as established by the teacher to demonstrate formative assessment of new learning and remediation of weaknesses. The retake need only reassess the knowledge and skills that the student has not yet mastered. The student will receive the higher of the two grades for grading purposes but not to exceed 80%. Please be aware that in certain cases a reassessment may not be feasible (group presentations, band concerts, final exams, etc.).

Late Work

Summative assessments turned in after the due date will result in a grade reduction of 10 percentage points per day. Assignments turned in after five days late will receive no credit for grading purposes.

GRADING PHILOSOPHY AND PROTOCOLS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Please sign below indicating you have received and understand our grading practices at Pelham Memorial School. Your child should return the completed form to their WIN teacher.

Student (Printed)

Parent (Printed)

Student Signature

Parent Signature