

Mendenhall Math Dept. – Explanation of Letter Grade Calculation with Standards Based Grading

In math class, the letter grade for a student is calculated as a weighted average with **90% weighted on assessments** (including project-based assessments) and **10% on homework/classwork/other work**.

School Loop automatically averages all homework (and other) assignments into an average percent, and assessments (quizzes, tests, certain projects) into an average percent score. Next, these two percent averages are weighted as follows to calculate an overall percent average.

Overall average percent =

$$\mathbf{(0.90 \times \text{Assessment Average\%}) + (0.10 \times \text{Homework/Other Average\%})}$$

The **homework** is typically graded as 0 points (for missing assignment or no name) up 4 points for full credit (depending on the teacher).

The **assessments** are graded on a Standard Based Grading 0 to 4 point rubric (out of 4 possible) as explained below:

- **0 = No Attempt Made (no evidence/blank paper)**
- **1 = Beginning (weak knowledge/just starting to understand)**
- **2 = Approaching (partial knowledge/understand some/not yet mastery)**
- **3 = Mastery (meets expectations/can work independently and correctly)**
- **4 = Outstanding (exceeds expectations/apply concept to new situations)**

As shown above, a rubric score of **3 out of 4** is considered “**Mastery**” which under our Standards Based Grading system translates to a letter grade of A- for assessments.

A rubric score of 4 out of 4 is “**Above Mastery**” going above and beyond what is required, and under our Standards Based Grading system translates to a letter grade of A+.

- **In order to earn a grade of A- to A+ on the assessments portion of the grade, a student must have an average rubric score of 3 or higher on all assessments to date for a trimester.**
- **Students may retake ANY assessments WITHIN THAT TRIMESTER when ready on an agreed upon scheduled time with their teacher (*before final grades are submitted by the teacher for a trimester*)**

Here is how the **overall percent grade** translates to a **letter grade** in School Loop. The percents shown are the lower limit for that grade.

<u>Standards Based Grade</u>	<u>Percent in School Loop</u>
• 0 to under 1.5 = F	(0 – 37%)
• 1.5 to under 2 = D- to D+	(38% - 49%)
• 2 to under 2.5 = C- to C+	(50% - 62%)
• 2.5 to under 3 = B- to B+	(63% - 74%)
• 3.0 to 4.0 = A- to A+	(75% - 100%)

EXAMPLE:

- Student “Jane Doe” has done all her homework/classwork for full credit and has a homework score of 100%.
- “Jane Doe” has assessment scores of 2, 3, 4, and 3. This averages to a rubric score of 3 out of 4, or 75%.

Overall Percent Average for “Jane Doe” = $0.9(75\%) + 0.1(100\%)$

= **77.5% overall** (calculated by School Loop)

Using the scale above, this translates to **A-** since more than 75% but less than 87.8%

EXTRA CREDIT:

Under the Standards Based Grading system, there is usually no “extra credit”. At Mendenhall, however, there is one exception to this. We do allow extra credit points in the homework portion of the grade for attending Math Counts. This will help offset any missing assignments. Each session attended counts similar to one homework assignment.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON STANDARDS BASED GRADING:

Here is a link to an article by **Robert Marzano** that was used to set up our letter grade translations above that has great information on Standards Based Grading:

<https://pdfs.semanticscholar.org/ec24/12a0fd77abfdb6e5e76e3fd8f8dd87a96aa4.pdf>

Here is a link to an excellent video made in 2016 by our previous Vice Principal **Alex Eckert** explaining Standards Based Grading at MMS the year we first implemented it:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WZbgzUxei8I>