

GRADE EIGHT - GRADING POLICY

GENERAL FORMAT FOR GRADING IN THE QUARTERLY SYSTEM

Each Quarter		Final Average	
Summative Tests:	45%	First Quarter:	20%
Homework:	10%	Second Quarter:	20%
Participation:	20%	Midterm Exam:	10%
Quizzes:	25%	Third Quarter:	20%
		Fourth Quarter:	20%
		Final Exam:	10%

RELIGION 8: The religion grade is based on class assignments and projects, participation in class discussions, and periodic quizzes.

WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS: The students are expected to be prepared for class discussions by completing the chapter assignments in the religion text. These assignments include reading sections of the text, taking outline notes, answering specific essay questions, writing reflective compositions on religious topics and Scripture passages, and creative art projects. A guide is found in the Student Introductory Materials folder.

MAJOR TERM ASSIGNMENT: Each student will be required to complete one major research paper on an assigned topic from the history of the Roman Catholic Church. The student must demonstrate his/her knowledge of the researched area by presenting his/her topic to the class without reading from the completed report.

(PLEASE NOTE: THIS ASSIGNMENT MUST BE HANDED TO ME NO LATER THAN 8:05 ON THE DATE DUE (March 21, 2022). IF A STUDENT CHOOSES TO BE ABSENT ON THIS DATE, ARRANGEMENTS MUST BE MADE TO HAVE ANOTHER STUDENT BRING IN THE TERM PAPER AND SUMMARY POSTER DISPLAY. PROCRASTINATION IS THE EASIEST WAY TO FAIL!!! PLEASE DISCOURAGE THIS PRACTICE!!!)

TESTS/QUIZZES: Surprise mini-quizzes, usually open notebook, may be given at any time to make certain the required homework preparation was done. The major part of announced religion tests and quizzes will be based on the correct answers to religion text questions, important vocabulary terms, and the main points discussed in class.

MATHEMATICS 8, 9: The math grade is based on weekly quizzes, cumulative tests, and nightly homework assignments.

TESTS/QUIZZES: Weekly quizzes are given to check the student's progress on the topics covered in a given week. Cumulative tests are administered every third assessment. These cumulative tests may be used to raise lower quiz grades IF THE STUDENT'S HOMEWORK AVERAGE REVEALS A CONSISTENT EFFORT.

Cumulative Review Projects are assigned to help the students properly pace their reviews for major tests! In addition, a makeup test is available after school for students who properly complete their corrections and have them checked by Mr. McCarthy. **(See my above policy on long term projects. They must be turned in on the due date, even if the student "happens" to be absent.)**

Since the signed tests are collected on Thursdays, it is a good idea if the students copy the missed test examples into their notebooks on pages marked "Problem Areas" in red. In this way the students will have a permanent record of the types of examples they have done wrong on previous tests! This should prove very valuable when preparing for midterm and final exams!

HOMEWORK: Since practice is the key to mastering math skills, homework is given on a nightly basis. While completing assignments, the students are required to follow these guidelines:

1. Each assignment must be properly identified by writing both the topic (e.g. Multiplying Integers) and the text page on the lines following the customary heading.
2. If more than one type of mathematical skill is practiced, EACH SET OF TEXTBOOK DIRECTIONS MUST BE WRITTEN AS IT APPEARS IN THE TEXT.
3. Each original example and all computation work must be shown. ANSWERS ALONE ARE NEVER ACCEPTED.
4. For concept questions (e.g. true or false and completions), THE STATEMENT MUST BE WRITTEN COMPLETELY.
5. GRAPHS, CHARTS, and FIGURES (geometry) must always be INCLUDED on the assignment paper.
6. Needless to say, only NEAT assignments receive full credit.

LANGUAGE ARTS 8: The language arts grade is divided into four areas: reading/literature grammar, composition, and spelling.

Note: I cover the comprehension and composition areas. Ms. O'Beirne covers grammar, vocabulary, and spelling since the daily math periods are seventy minutes long.

COMPOSITION: The composition grade is based on written reports and compositions, essay assignments in religion and literature, and oral participation during composition classes. **ALL PAPERS ANY TEACHER RECEIVES SHOULD REFLECT THE STUDENT'S BEST COMPOSITION AND PENMANSHIP.** Use a thesaurus to provide greater variety in vocabulary by using more precise words to convey your ideas.

LITERATURE 8: The literature grade is divided into three areas: comprehension, vocabulary and critical reading.

COMPREHENSION: The comprehension grade is based on class participation and periodic quizzes on reading assignments from the literature textbook, and the Readworks website. New websites are added each year.

CRITICAL READING: The critical reading grade is based on the student's mastery of the presented literary vocabulary as exhibited by written reports, essay assignments, and oral participation in class. (PLEASE NOTE: Since the student must pass an objective test on the books assigned for independent reading, it is important that the nightly reading and notes be properly paced. A FULL WEEK is generally suggested to write the developed, proofread, and revised report. **PROCRASTINATION RESULTS IN VERY POOR GRADES IN THIS AREA!!!**) SPOT CHECKS: Obviously, it is impossible for me to check the nightly notes every single day! Therefore, I "spot check" the literature notebooks. Beginning with the second week of each month, the nightly notes must be available for me to check at any time. If a student is absent, it is the student's responsibility to make certain that arrangements are made to have the nightly notes on my desk first thing in the morning. Failure to comply with this requirement will result in lower grades in literature!

This policy may be adjusted if the students do not return to full time "in person" instruction in September 2021. As of my preparation, the Archdiocese appeared to be leaning in that direction.