



## Dual Grading: Frequently Asked Questions

Beginning with this progress report, students will receive two grades for each course—one based entirely upon **academic assessment** (*tests, projects, speeches, essays, etc.*) and a second letter grade based on **personal management** (*assignments, homework, meeting deadlines, participation, attendance etc.*).

### Question: What is the point of making all these changes?

*Answer: Our high school is focused on LEARNING—that is our mission. Dual grades more accurately report if students have learned, and will also help parents, students and employers know if students have developed skills for the workplace.*

### Question: In several classes, my student only had one assessment during the first six-weeks. Will the academic progress grade be based on that single assessment?

*Answer: Yes, but don't panic. Remember, at six-weeks we report on progress and students may arrange to retake assessments. In our previous grading system, it was common for students to have had one major assessments recorded at six-weeks, but progress reports with a single grade for each course couldn't clearly reveal successes or struggles. Dual grading helps everyone accurately judge progress.*

### Question: What do PP and PA mean on the progress report?

*Answer: PP=Progress Personal Management; PA=Progress Academic*

### Question: Is this change to the grading system related to changes with state graduation requirements?

*Answer: Yes. Our current freshmen are required to pass the Oregon State Achievement Tests (OSAT) in math, writing and reading before being awarded a diploma. Our grades must **accurately** report learning to avoid having students earn the required credits, not meet OSAT standards, and then fail to earn a diploma.*

### Question: My child is a good student and gets her work completed on time, but what if she doesn't test well?

*Answer: Your student will be given multiple opportunities to demonstrate learning (including retaking tests or other forms of assessment) but only after completing high-quality practice or review activities as directed by her teacher.*

### Question: How will these changes affect transcripts & college admission?

*Answer: Both the Academic and Personal Management grades will appear on the transcript. We will provide detailed information to anyone who receives our transcript that describes what the two grades mean and contact information should questions arise. Many colleges have indicated that they will use both grades in their admissions process and appreciate the additional information.*

### Question: Is it true that homework doesn't matter anymore?

*Answer: **Not true.** Homework is included in the personal management grade. Homework is practice, and failing to practice will likely result in poor performance on tests or other assessments. Just like an athlete or musician must practice to execute a new play or perform a new song, students must practice to learn.*

### Question: Does this change encourage students to be more responsible?

*Answer: Absolutely. Our approach to learning (which includes dual grading and multiple opportunities on assessments) helps hold students more accountable for learning. We expect students to master the skills and concepts taught in each course, and we provide the necessary time and support to accomplish that goal.*

### Question: How will Grade Point Average (GPA) be determined?

*Answer: Both academic and personal management grades will contribute to a single GPA. 75% of the GPA will be based on the Academic grade and 25% on Personal Management grade.*

### Question: How can I get more information?

*Answer: e-mail your questions to [SAMPLE@SCHOOL.org](mailto:SAMPLE@SCHOOL.org), or you may call 503-867-5309 and tell the receptionist: "I have questions about the new grading system." In either case, we will promptly answer your questions or address your concerns. **To save time, please read this page carefully before you contact us.***