

October 23, 2014

Dear Abbotts Hill Families,

Again, I would like to take the opportunity to thank those of you who reached out to me directly with your concerns regarding grades. As mentioned in the previous eblast communication, our team reviewed our grading process, which was presented to parents on Curriculum Night(s) in August. Staff referred to our county grading policy as adopted by the Fulton County Board of Education to guide us in our discussions. With that in mind, staff decided that summative grades would count 60% and formative grades would count 40%, when calculating grades. In light of the recent concerns we feel it is beneficial to provide detailed information and examples of summative and formative grades.

In general, a summative grade is one that shows an indication of your child's mastery of the standard(s). These assessments can be administered in different forms, such as a project, a formal writing piece, a reading comprehension exercise, quizzes (that only show mastery of standards) or a traditional paper and pencil to name a few. A summative assessment is high-stakes and its main purpose is to provide a culmination of material that measures *mastery of standard(s) learned*. These types of assessments would make up the 60% summative grade. It does not mean one test at the end of learning or grading period.

A formative grade has the purpose of informing and monitoring your child's progress during a unit of study. These assessments can be administered daily to assist teachers with planning instruction. These could be in the form of quick quizzes (that only monitors progress), short answer responses, students working together to discover and practice activities, or a classwork assignment name just to name a few. A formative assessment is low-stakes and the main purpose is to *monitor student progress, as they are learning*. These types of assessments would make up the 40% formative grade.

Please note that it is not the length, name or the amount of time that drives the category of the assessment, but the intent in which the teacher has determined the purpose of the assessment. The chart on the following page should give clarification of what the differences are between formative and summative. Essentially, your child's average would give teachers and you an indication of his/her mastery of the standards being taught since the summative grade is one of mastery and not monitoring.

We hope that this information is helpful and should you have any additional concerns, please do not hesitate to call me.

Sincerely,

Roytunda Stabler, Ed. D.
Principal

Attachment