



Grading Practices

School: Landstown High School, Governor's STEM and Technology Academy

Subject(s): Fine Arts

Grade Level: 9-12

Homework

Grades are based on the following criteria, as a city-wide grading policy is now in effect for music ensembles.

- *Performance = 50% Includes concert attendance and proper attire.*
- *Music Theory/ Literacy = 30% Theory and sight singing*
- *Analysis, Evaluation & Critique = 10% Journal and Notes*
- *Music History & Cultural Context = 5% Performance and worksheets*
- *Aesthetics = 5% Singing and interpretation of music.*

As you can see, homework is not now an assigned part of what we do, however we EXPECT our students to practice vocal or instrumental music as assigned. Mrs. Gayer (theatre) expects that her students' memorizations of parts as homework. The Fine Arts do not become "fine" without some outside work. Music teachers now have Music Theory books which we work on in class. In chorus, the books remain at school unless a student is absent and they need to complete the work the rest of the class did in class. However homework, as it explained here, does not exist for us.

Late Work

We have all discussed this—and the majority of us feel that we would rather have the work late than not at all—as long as there is a legitimate reason for the lateness. We also feel that accountability of the students to submit work in a timely manner lets the student know that it is not really the desire of the teacher to penalize but to encourage completion and more important, understanding of the work. Point deductions will be taken if the assignment is not turned in within a week of the due date (unless absence is extensive). Some teachers are total points, some percent, so the equivalent of 1 letter grade per week is a reasonable assumption. Teachers will remind/encourage/provide class time for completion of long term assignments.

Explanation of Zeroes

In Fine and Performing Arts, the culminating grade is most often a performance or final project. Missing a performance is not just about one student's performance, but the performance as a whole group; a team effort in which every student, voice or instrument is important. The Fine Arts team makes every effort to make sure students are aware of the consequences of missing a performance, and opportunities are made to make up that grade, however there is no replacement for the performance experience. Students who are unexcused from a performance receive a zero. All of this information is available in our handbooks. Students who have an excused absence have the opportunity to make up the grade. In Visual Arts classes, every effort is made to have students turn in their projects, even late work is accepted. However, students who do not turn in the work after all intervention strategies are exhausted will receive a zero.

Reassessment

Because the Arts are performance/portfolio based curriculum, we provide many opportunities for reassessment within our individual strands. After school remediation is available for all students in all strands. We encourage students to complete projects in a timely manner, show up for performances and do their best. When they miss, it takes away from the success of the class, and detracts from the ensemble. Being able to recreate the audience moment is not possible, and in some cases a zero is the appropriate final step in having tried parent contact numerous times and all remediation efforts have been explored. Considerations to adjust this policy would be made on a case-by-case basis.

Art: Perhaps one Studio Make-Up day per week would be offered in addition to the other remediation days. An essay or presentation may be required of students who do not complete a project.

Music: Participation as a group is imperative for the success of the ensemble. Students who miss a performance may be required to perform their parts in a similar setting. Numerous remediation in theory and performance coaching are available on an individual basis.

Theatre: Participation as a group is imperative for the success of the ensemble. Literacy-based assessments will be offered until the student receives a sufficient passing grade. Should a student miss a theatrical performance, they will demonstrate mastery of character development, and proper vocal technique in a similar setting.

Make-up Work

Make-up work is encouraged from all of the arts teachers. We agree that we would rather have the work than not, and we would provide extra time, and after school tutoring/coaching to make sure that it is completed.

When a student has an excused absence, we collaborate with parents and counselors, and many time provide the work even if the student is only absent for a couple of days.

Within ALL class expectations we have provided the information for make-up work being accepted. For assessment, sometimes it takes a little longer and we can provide an "Incomplete" grade, and change it back when the student makes up the work.

It is our objective to make sure the student understands the work provided, and can be assessed adequately and successfully.

Extra Credit

Fine Arts students will be given the opportunity to complete extra credit assignments through performance attendance or virtual performances (Band, Chorus, Orchestra, and Theatre) and through gallery walks or virtual gallery walks in Art. Students will write a reflection based on individual teacher requirements. Students are limited to 1 extra credit assignment per quarter. The medium of the extra credit will be aligned with the curricular objectives of VBCPS.

For additional information, please access the [VBCPS Grading Guidelines for Secondary Schools](http://vbschools.com) on vbschools.com.