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August 1, 2023

Dear Wrangler Parents and Students,

I am sending you this letter to share information on changes made to Amphitheater's grading systems for secondary schools, grades 6 – 12.

In May, Amphitheater's Governing Board adopted a new grading system that was based on the recommendations of committee work that occurred during the 2022-2023 school year. The following information will provide you with an overview of what will change and will not change in our schools' and teachers' grading and reporting practices.

To begin with, the District's new grading and reporting practices will not impact how GPAs are calculated and will not impact how grades appear on report cards and students' academic transcripts. The committee was steadfast in ensuring that changes did not impact these areas and would not create any complications when transcripts were sent to colleges, employers or for enlistment purposes.

What has changed is the transition from a 100-point scale to a more equitable based grading system that utilizes a 0 – 4 grading scale. The 100-point scale was determined to be inequitable and created a greater likelihood of failure than success. (Example: In the 100-point scale, the grading scale is weighted for failure, meaning of the 100 points, 59 of the 100 points resulted in a failing grade, while there is only a 10-point range for a D, a 10-point range to earn a C, etc.)

As teachers grade student work, teachers will reflect the grade as a 0, 1, 2, 3, or 4. Students will no longer see a percentage written on their graded item.

With the adoption of the 0 – 4 scale, each number grade (0 – 4) will correspond to a level of proficiency and will have an equivalent letter grade. Based on this change, students (and parents) will see a 0 – 4 entry in teachers' grade books. (This will not be reflected on report cards or transcripts.) The following is an example of what a student (and parent) will see.

Example:

To Kill a Mockingbird Essay	3/B
Shakespeare Othello Test	4/A

The 0 – 4 scale correlates to measures of proficiency and will help communicate to students and parents how their grade relates to proficiency of the State standards.

<u>4</u>	<u>A</u>	Highly Proficient
<u>3</u>	<u>B</u>	Proficient
<u>2</u>	<u>C</u>	Partially Proficient
<u>1</u>	<u>D</u>	Minimally Proficient
<u>0</u>	<u>F</u>	No Evidence of Proficiency

Amphitheater High • Canyon del Oro High • Ironwood Ridge High
 Amphitheater Middle School • Coronado K-8 School • Cross Middle School • La Cima Middle School • Wilson K-8 School
 Copper Creek Elementary • Donaldson Elementary • Harelson Elementary • Holaway Elementary • Innovation Academy • Keeling Elementary
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The new policy also replaces the 50% rule that was developed as response to COVID. The new grading system does not include a 50% policy. Students who do not turn in work or whose work does not demonstrate evidence of proficiency on the State standards, will receive a zero. The new policy also eliminates the one-week grace period to turn in work.

Additionally, work that is submitted during the time of an unexcused absence may result in a zero for the grade. Students' academic grades will be based on the State standards. A student's behavior, attendance, participation*, and initiative will be reflected in a Work Habits/Citizenship mark. The rubric developed to assess a student's Work Habits/Citizenship is tied directly to Amphitheater's Portrait of a Graduate.

(*Participation that is directly tied to one or more State standard(s), such as participating in PE, completing labs in science classes, participation/performance in fine arts, will be included in students' grades.)

Teachers will no longer award points for extra credit that is not related to State standards.

The District's adoption of this new grading system will continue to be evaluated and reviewed for potential changes that may be needed in the future. If revisions are necessary, you and your child will receive communication that outlines what has changed and why. As it stands, the new grading system will provide students with a better opportunity to positively and accurately demonstrate their learning through a balanced grading scale.

Respectfully,

Christine Sullivan, Principal

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