

**Why Grades Matter?**

Whereas your final grades should not define you as a person, they do tell a story about your academic career in high school. Chances are you will never be asked about your GPA in a job interview, but we do know that a strong GPA is a necessary evil when applying to college, joining the military, and a variety of other post secondary activities. With this in mind, here are some points to remember throughout your freshmen year:

- If you plan on going to college, then GPA matters! You have 6 semesters (First and Second semesters of your 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> grade years) before you send your transcript to the colleges to which you are applying.
- Your semester average (the actual grade that goes on the transcript) is configured in the following manner:

|                                      |                                      |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> - Nine Weeks at 40%  | 3 <sup>rd</sup> - Nine Weeks at 40%  |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Nine Weeks at 40%    | 4 <sup>th</sup> Nine Weeks at 40%    |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Semester Exam at 20% | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Semester Exam at 20% |
| = 1 <sup>st</sup> Semester Average   | = 2 <sup>nd</sup> Semester Average   |

For each grade on your Transcript, the following Quality Point Value is assigned:

| Grade | Numeric Range | Regular Classes | Honors Classes / Dual Enrollment | AP Classes |
|-------|---------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|------------|
| A     | 90+           | 4               | 4.5                              | 5          |
| B     | 80-89         | 3               | 3.5                              | 4          |
| C     | 70-79         | 2               | 2.5                              | 3          |
| D     | 60-69         | 1               | 1.5                              | 2          |
| *F    | 0-59          | 0               | 0                                | 0          |

*\*A failing grade (F / 59 and below) has to be retaken if it is a CORE subject or an elective that is required for graduation.*

**Final Note:** Grades are posted to your transcript every semester...therefore you will know which classes you passed, the credits you earned for passing, and the start of your GPA.

**Make it COUNT!**

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**New Grading Policy**

**In order to better reflect student learning and achievement, beginning in the 2015-2016 school year, secondary teachers in Shelby County Schools will utilize a district-wide grading system. Grades will be divided into 3 weighted categories:**

|   |
|---|
| Gold- 60% of the student's 9-Week Grade: This category consists of major assignments, tests, and projects   |
| Silver- 30% of the student's 9-Week Grade: This category consists of quizzes, assignments that build to a 60% project or paper, collaborative work, lab reports, class work, etc. |
| Bronze- 10% of the student's 9-Week Grade: This category consists of homework, bell ringers, study guides, etc.   |