



BEAUFORT MIDDLE SCHOOL

2501 MOSSY OAKS RD
BEAUFORT, SOUTH CAROLINA 29902
843-322-5700



PRINCIPAL
CAROLE T. INGRAM

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL
CARRIE GRILLI
JERRY HENDERSON

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Dear Families,

Parents will use the PowerSchool Parent Portal to access student grades and attendance starting the first week of September. Power School is one of several ways that we communicate with you about instruction and what our students are learning. *Friday Facts* provides families with an overall view of the learning and activities for a week or unit. While *Friday Facts* gives you the big picture, the student assignment book gives the details of assignments and due dates. Students are expected to use these daily to record their assignments. In Power School you will be able to see your child's grades on the assignments mentioned in *Friday Facts* and that your child writes in the assignment book. These three tools together give parents details of what students are learning at BMS.

The following information about our use of Power School gives you with the practices we follow for grading and grade reporting and what you can expect through the use of your secure log-in through Power School. These practices are based on educational research and best practices.

- Grades are assigned to reflect what students have learned and to assess what skills and processes students are mastering.
- Teachers will provide you with the expected learning of each assignment. Please look in the teacher-entered description section of Power School to locate the learning and how the assignment was graded.
- Teachers update grades in Power School within 7 days of the completion of assignments. Grades for major projects, presentations, or writing assignments that may occur over multiple days may be an exception. However, teachers will grade progress on components of these major assignments as they are assessed each week.
- Students will have a minimum of 12 graded assessments during each nine-week period in classes that meet every day and a minimum of 10 assessments for classes that meet on alternating days. Some exploratory classes such as Reading Assistance, Math Assistance, Teacher Cadet, Compass Learning, and PSAT Prep may not assign numerical grades, as these classes focus on students' progress on specific skills practice and skill building. Teachers will provide you information on students' progress for these classes.
- Teachers in each content have agreed on the same weights and categories for students' grades that comprise the quarterly final average. These grading weights and categories are attached.
- If Homework is a category, it will be weighted no more than 10%.
- Teachers use a grading floor of 60% for quarterly averages.
- Some teachers may calculate averages on total points and others may calculate them on percentages. These will be described in the information that comes home to you also.
- Teachers use the code DND (Did Not Do) in Power School to indicate a student has not done an assignment. This DND will be calculated as a grade of O if the assignment is not completed within the time provided by the teacher.
- Teachers provide redo/retake/"do over" (R2) regularly for students to show what they know and can do on assessments after additional study, practice, or re-teaching; however, second chances are not given for all assignments. Re-graded assignments will then be posted by the end of the grading period.
- Teachers contact parents if a student's grade is below C/77%.

Our goal for grading and the use of Power School is to communicate your child's achievement to you, to provide information that students can use for self-assessment, and to promote students' growth and progress in learning. We are partners in our students' learning and academic success. Families are important to this process, as you monitor your child's learning. When we focus on learning and interpreting grades together, we support our students in their achievement.

Your child's teachers are available to meet with you about grading, assessment, and the use of Power School. Please contact us if you have questions.

Yours,

Carole Ingram

Beaufort Middle School
Grading Categories and Weights by Department
2012 – 2013

One of Beaufort Middle School's goals is aimed at assessment of students' learning with action plans to develop our assessment and grading processes so they are clear to you and are managed and communicated effectively to you. As part of this plan, our teachers have agreed to use consistent categories and weights of grades by content area. This helps teachers in each content examine student achievement across all grade levels and give teachers, parents, and students a clearer understanding of a student's progress in any content area. The agreed weights and categories for each content area are listed below for your reference.

Language Arts Department

Categories	Weights
Reading, writing, speaking, listening, and collaboration	90%
Homework	10%

Mathematics Department

Categories	Weights
Knowledge and Understanding Assessments that measure understanding and application of concepts. Examples are tests, quizzes, and projects	60%
Skills and Concepts Assessments that measure use of skills. Examples may include daily grades, quick checks, and board work.	30%
Personal Responsibility Assessments of preparedness to learn and evidence of practice of the Habits of Mind. Examples include effort, attentiveness, and homework.	10%

Science Department

Categories	Weights
Process Skills Assessments of the scientific inquiry process skills. Examples include lab write-ups, some performance assessments, some class work assignments.	40%
Content Knowledge Assessments of factual content knowledge. Examples include multiple choice tests, quizzes, some class work assignments.	30%
Conceptual/ Enduring Understanding Assessments of science concept knowledge. Examples include extended writing pieces and some class work assignments.	20%
Learning Support Factors Assessments of preparedness to learn and evidence of the practice of habits of mind. Examples include warm-ups, bell work, PASS practice, homework.	10%

Humanities Department

Categories	Weights
Tests and Projects	35%
Quizzes and Written Responses	30%
Classwork	25%
Homework	10%

Spanish

Categories	Weights
Tests and Projects	40%
Personal Responsibility	30%
Quizzes	20%
Homework	10%

Performing Arts

Categories	Weights
Performances	30%
Commitment	50%
Projects and Quizzes	10%
Homework	10%

Visual Arts

Categories	Weights
Content – Knowing about Art	25%
Creativity – Unique Thinking and Expression	25%
Craftsmanship – Careful and Competent Art Making	25%
Commitment – Performing/Working like an Artist	25%

Physical Education and Health

Categories	Weights
Active Participation	70%
Goal Project	20%
Quizzes	5%
Skills Tests	5%