

EMS Grading Practices

With the recent introduction of trimester standards-based report cards, Ellington Middle School has completed a multiyear shift to mastery learning and proficiency based grading practices. The EMS grading practices now reflect this mastery approach to learning.

Separating Academic and Effort

Ellington Middle School attempts to **separate student effort from student academic skills** by providing two different types of feedback and grades. The first is an academic grade. The academic grade is based on course specific skills outlined in the report card supplement document, Grade Level Expectations. The academic grade should only reflect student performance levels related to these academic skills. On their report card, students will receive academic feedback in two forms: a traditional holistic grade (A-F) and course specific standards grades (using a three point scale of Not Yet – Mastery - Exceeds).

The second feedback/grade students will receive will be based on their overall effort. Students will receive feedback on their level of effort as described in the PRIDE effort expectations. Students with an average PRIDE effort score of 2.5 or higher on their report card will be awarded Student Society status.

Redo, Revise, and Retake

In an effort to foster a growth mindset in students, Ellington Middle School provides opportunities for students to submit late work, to redo assignments and assessments, revisit and revise their writings, and retake tests and quizzes. Students are provided **multiple opportunities to demonstrate their understanding**, however the following parameters apply:

- Teachers may request students provide evidence of new learning before providing redo/retake opportunities. This evidence might include student learning strategies like annotating previously submitted work or participating in an extra help session.
- Redo's and retakes opportunities are offered on a time limited basis as determined and communicated by the teacher.
- Portions of the assessment that have already been completed in a satisfactory manner may not need to be done again.
- Grades are not averaged. The grade that best reflects student mastery of material is the grade that counts. In most instances, this will be the grade on the redo or retake. The grade for late work should be based on the quality of work, not the date of submission.

Homework

Homework is important and is seen as an extension of classroom learning, providing students with opportunities to practice newly taught skills. It is not an effective way of accurately assessing student learning. As a result, homework completion will be reflected in the students' Pride effort grade and not in the academic grade. For students who are chronically missing homework assignments (three or more per trimester) the Three Strikes rule will apply. Three Strikes is a same day afterschool opportunity for students to complete a missing assignment.