

Chemistry Grading Scale

The grading scale adopted by the St. Marys City Schools Board of Education will be used to determine grades. Make-up work will be completed and turned in within a reasonable time after you return to school. "Reasonable time" is the number of days you missed plus one day. You always have a syllabus to keep you up to date. If any bonus or extra credit work is offered, it will be announced to the entire class during the last 2 weeks of each quarter. It should be noted that bonus or extra credit cannot take the place of work you chose NOT to hand in.

A+	99-100	C+	81-83
A	96-98	C	76-80
A-	94-95	C-	74-75
B+	91-93	D+	71-75
B	86-90	D	66-70
B-	84-85	D-	64-65

Each quarter grade will consist of assessments from 1-4 units of work. Within each unit, student assignments to be scored will be taken from the following as appropriate:

Homework: assignments that must be done at home. You'll soon see why.

Problem Solving Try-its: problems or questions answered (usually) in class, with the student responsible for making corrections and turning in the (corrected if necessary) work for credit.

Practice Problems: to be done, again usually during class, and turned in for scoring. If the score is not as high as you expected, you may correct your errors then turn in an equal number of similar problems for rescoreing.

Laboratory work: Chemistry is a laboratory course. Credit for the course may be granted only after the laboratory work has been completed and submitted.

The above listed assignments are due ON or BEFORE the listed due date; if submitted after the listed due date, the grade will be marked with L and is ineligible for the 150% factor*.

Quizzes: to be taken during class. May be retaken on student's own time.

Unit tests: taken during class; may be partially retaken on student's own time. Quarter/semester tests: may not be retaken.

***150% Factor:** The total of all assignment scores for a unit may not be greater than 150% of the unit test score. This factor maintains student accountability and prevents a student from achieving a high score via massive amounts of "peer collaboration."

100% Factor: The total of all assignment scores for a unit may not be greater than 100% of the unit test score. Late work is thus ineligible for the 150% factor.

How the factors work:

Suppose a student scores a total of 145 of 150 possible points on homework (submitted on time) and labs, then scores 37 of 42 points on the unit test. The 150% factor is used and the student's grades are computed as follows:

$37/42 = 88\%$, so the assignment grades may not contribute more than 150% of 88 points, which is 132%, therefore the homework grade of 145 is factored by 132% and the student receives a homework score of 187 of 150 – clearly a bonus situation which makes up for the points missed on the test. By working diligently and on schedule, the student realizes a huge benefit. Since the test score was as high as it was, the student obviously understands the material and receives a higher factor based on the test score.

Suppose the student received the same test score but turned in some work late. The assignments would earn 88% of the earned 142 points, or 125 of 150.

The 150% rule is not a threat to any student who understands the material. 150% is a very forgiving percentage. It takes only a 50% on a test to support grades up to 75%. A 67% on the test will support 100% (full credit) of any grade on an assignment covered by the test.

The 150% rule is not a threat to a student who does not understand the subject. It shows the student that his/her level of understanding will support only such and such a grade. The student may get lots of extra help and may also retake the test within a week of the original test date.

The sheer number and diversity of their extra-curricular activities and family responsibilities occasionally overwhelm many students. Even the most conscientious student will fail to get an assignment in on time (L) and may not even get the assignment in before the assignments have already been returned to the rest of the class (LL). If this second condition is met, the 100% rule applies.

The 100% Factor:

A student who submits a 10-point worksheet after the worksheets of other students have been graded and returned may get full credit for the assignment. The grade is then recorded as a 10 L. If the student gets a grade of 32 out of 40 (80%) on the test which covers that assignment, the 10 L is worth 8 points. The student may retake the test in order to raise the grade on both assignments.

What is the rationale behind the factors?

The teacher simply cannot give the student credit for turning in work after all of the answers or methods of solution become public knowledge, hence the L designation. This situation must be handled equitably without punishing the student for being involved with extracurriculars or for running into personal problems which may be negatively affecting the student's work, hence the 100% rule. If the student can verify, under exam conditions, a thorough understanding of the subject, the student can get full credit for the assignment even if it carries an L.

What are the results of the factors?

Most students learn early that it is very risky to get an "L" and strive to get their work in on time.

Finally, students who do not understand the subject and are not planning on doing the work to get an understanding, do not bother to copy other student's results when they discover they will ultimately get no credit for it. Even 200% of nothing is... well you know what it is.

And of course, if a student has a problem and cannot get the work in on time, and the student asks for an extension, the teacher's response will be, "You don't need an extension. You'll just take an L grade. If you understand the material you can still get full credit."

A system which tolerates late assignments and allows unlimited retakes of exams, and which places most of the credit in the form of low-pressure assignments is student friendly. On the other hand, the 150% and 100% rules are effective means of insuring that student grades have a high degree of validity, assuming, of course, that the tests are well constructed.