



9th Grade Connections

November 2016 Newsletter

Hello 9th grade families!

Can you believe that we're already in the second quarter of the school year? It's going by quickly as usual! On Friday, October 28th, first quarter report cards were posted in Home Access Center. Hopefully you have had a chance to review these with your child and if necessary, have spoken with his or her teachers about any concerns regarding grades.

With regard to grades: As a reminder, please be aware that the grading policy in high school differs from middle school, as do the expectations. We expect our students to be proactive, communicate with their teachers and be familiar with the grading policy for each class. In addition, students should be checking their grades and monitoring their progress on an ongoing basis via the Home Access Center (HAC). As concerns about grades arise, please communicate with your child's teacher(s) so that a proactive plan can be put into place so that students do not fall behind and/or find themselves at-risk for failing.

One of the most frequently asked questions by our 9th graders and their families about report cards is about the Grade Point Average (GPA) and how it is calculated. Please note, while quarter grades are not calculated into students' cumulative GPA's, they do factor into students' semester grades, which not only are used for the cumulative GPA, but also for the awarding of course credit.

Below is some helpful information about high school grade promotion, credit completion and GPA calculation.

Grade Promotion:

- Promotion from each grade level to the next in high school is based on the total amount of credits earned. To be promoted from 9th to 10th grade, 5 total credits are required. To be promoted from 10th to 11th grade, 11 total credits are required. To be promoted from 11th to 12th grade, 17 total credits are required. To graduate from high school, 24 total credits (in specific areas) are required.

Credit Completion:

- To earn a half credit in a course at the end of the first semester, the first and second quarter grades are used (each weighted at 45%), along with the midterm grade (which is weighted at 10%). The same calculation is used for the second semester with the third and fourth quarter grades and the final exam grade.
 - The exceptions to this are the courses that have state-administered End of Course (EOC)/Florida Standards Assessments (FSA) tests. These include Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2, Biology and American History. In an EOC/FSA course, no credit is awarded until the end of the year as the EOC/FSA results count for 30% of the student's overall final grade in the course. The other 70% of their grade is based on all four quarter grades, each weighted at 17.5%.
 - While all of these EOC's/FSA's results count for 30% of a student's final course grade, passing the Algebra 1 EOC along with the 10th grade FSA English Language Arts (ELA) assessment are requirements in order to graduate with a standard high school diploma.

GPA Calculation:

- Weighted courses (Honors, Dual Enrollment, Advanced Placement) earn extra value at BTHS and most universities for a students' weighted GPA:
 - ✓ Honors (+.5) per 1 credit
 - ✓ Dual Enrollment (+1.0) per 1 credit
 - ✓ Advanced Placement (+1.0) per 1 credit

NOTE: High School GPA is not the same as the Bright Futures GPA! All honors, DE, AP, etc. earn (+.5) for grades of "C" and higher via Bright Futures.

- GPA is calculated using semester grades (not quarter grades) and will impact GPA at the end of each semester
- Courses with EOC's/FSA's are year-long grades only and will impact GPA at end of the year (Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2, Biology, American History)

- How to calculate the GPA:

- ✓ A= 4 points (weighted= 4.5 Honors or 5 AP/DE)
- ✓ B= 3 points (weighted= 3.5 Honors or 4 AP/DE)
- ✓ C= 2 points (weighted= 2.5 Honors or 3 AP/DE)
- ✓ D= 1 point (weighted= 1.5 Honors or 2 AP/DE)
- ✓ F= 0 points

* Add up total point * Divide by the number of semesters

November Happenings:
-November 11th- Veterans Day - No School
-November 16th- 2nd quarter interims available for viewing on HAC
-November 23rd – 25th - Thanksgiving Break, No School