



BHS Semester Grading Update

April 22, 2009

Background

- BHS students currently receive a letter grade for each quarter.
- The semester grade is determined by combining the two quarter grades and the final exam grade.
- Each quarter grade is worth 40% and the final exam is worth 20%.
 - **Example:**
 - ABA = A
 - BBA = B
 - CAD = B
 - DAA = B
- The semester grade is the only grade included on the transcript.

Background

- In this system, a student who receives a B with 88% is in the same situation as a student who receives a B with 80%.
 - No credit is given for performing better throughout the quarter.

- If a student receives a C (78%) for the first quarter and a C (78%) for the second quarter.
 - The student will receive a C for the semester regardless of his/her performance on the final exam.

- If a student has a low grade 5 weeks or more into the quarter, he/she has no incentive to work hard for the final weeks of the quarter.
 - Unless the effort will raise the quarter grade, the efforts put in during the last 3 to 4 weeks of the semester will not be recognized.

Proposal

- ▣ Maintain a running average of student grades throughout the semester.
- ▣ Base the semester grade on:
 - 80% Semester Work (assignments, projects, quizzes, tests, etc.)
 - 20% Final Exam
- ▣ Replace quarter grades with a 9-week progress report.
- ▣ Provide progress reports at 4 1/2 week intervals.

How Will this Affect Students' Grades? Example 1:

Current Grading Scale:

1st QTR Grade = 78%

2nd QTR Grade = 78%

Outcome =

CCA - C

CCB - C

CCC - C

CCD - C

CCF - C

- Get a "C" no matter what.

Proposed Grading Scale:

Semester Grade = 78%

Outcome = Student will get a "C" if they earn between a

38% - 88% on the final exam

- Below would result in a D
- Above would result in a B

How Will this Affect Students' Grades? Example 2:

Current Grading Scale:

1st QTR Grade = 78%

2nd QTR Grade = 88%

Outcome =

CBA - B

CBB - B

CBC - C

CBD - C

CBF - C

- ▣ Student would have to earn a "B" to get a B.

Proposed Grading Scale:

Semester Grade = 83%

Outcome = Student will get a "C" if they earn between a

19% - 67% on the final exam

- ▣ Below would result in a D
- ▣ Above would result in a B

80/20 Option:

- Recognizes student **effort/improvement**.
- Communicates the importance of learning the **entire curriculum** for the semester.
- Provides a more accurate representation of the student's **knowledge**.
- Provides an **incentive** to work hard throughout the semester.
- Better prepares students for **post-secondary education**.

Next Steps

- ▣ Board Meeting - May 13, 2009
- ▣ Pending Approval
 - Update Student Handbook
 - Distribute information to students and parents
- ▣ Continue to provide professional development for teachers

Assessment & Evaluation Team

Mark Anderson - Industrial Technology

Peggy Bobb - Business

Tim Coughlan - English

Tawn Foltz - Assistant Principal

Liz Guzaldo - Special Education

Amanda Holaway - English

Alan Kuchefski - English

Kevin Schafer - Business

Sean Sloan - Science

Tom Thakral - Math