

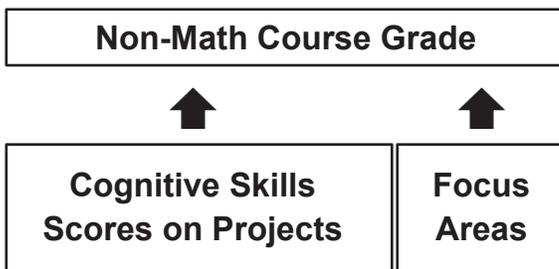
# What Makes Up Your Child's Grades



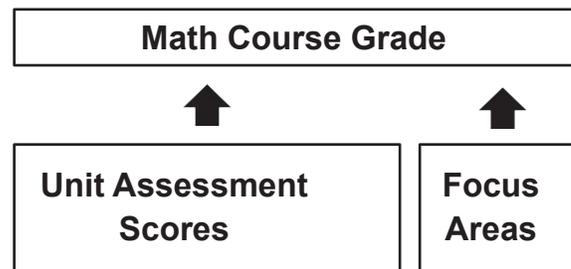
At MMS students are graded on how well they comprehend concepts and can apply what they've learned. Rather than simply memorizing information, students focus on developing a strong grasp of class material and effective application of key skills. This sets them up to succeed both within the classroom and beyond.

## The main factors that determine students' grades:

### ENGLISH, SOCIAL STUDIES, & SCIENCE COURSES



### MATHEMATICS COURSES



**Cognitive Skills**—like communication, critical thinking, and articulating a clear point—are at the core of your child's learning. Cognitive Skills are graded based on how well students apply them to projects.

- Students work on projects that relate to the real world, which require them to produce a final product (such as an essay or presentation).
- Cognitive Skills have a rubric score range appropriate for your student's grade level.
- Cognitive Skills can make up 70% of a student's overall grade.

**Unit Assessments** are the final assessments for each Math Unit. Unit Assessments apply to math courses only.

- Unit Assessment final scores are represented as a % grade.
- Unit Assessments can make up to 70% of a student's overall course grade.

**Focus Areas** ensure that students develop foundational content knowledge of a given subject area. Students demonstrate that they've grasped the subject matter by completing and passing Content Assessments.

## There are three types of Focus Areas:

### POWER FOCUS AREAS (PFAs)

They contain required areas of content knowledge for a given course. Students must complete all PFAs to avoid receiving an “incomplete” grade by the end of the grading period. PFAs contribute 21% of the final course grade.

### ADDITIONAL FOCUS AREAS (AFAs)

They contain complementary areas of content knowledge for a given course. Students are not required to complete AFAs in order to pass a course. AFAs contribute 9% of the final course grade, however; students are not required to complete AFAs in order to pass a course.

### CHALLENGE FOCUS AREAS (CFAs)

They aren't required areas of content knowledge and don't impact a student's grade. CFAs are available for students who want to go above and beyond or prepare for standardized tests.

## There's no such thing as Ds

Anything lower than a C- grade is considered “**off track.**”

An “off track” grade means that a student is:

- Not meeting Cognitive Skill or End-of-Unit Assessment grade-level requirements (below 70%).
- Behind in one or more Power Focus Areas.
- Overdue to submit a project's Final Product.

Any course grade that remains “off track” by the end of the grading period will result in an “incomplete” grade.

## How to help your child succeed

Regularly checking in with your child is a great way to support their success. Here are a few questions you can ask to get the conversation started:

- What Cognitive Skills are you working to improve?
- What have you learned from your Focus Areas?
- What are some of your learning goals this week?

## Staying in-the-know is easy!

See how your child is doing in each class by logging into their Summit Learning platform by using your students' login username and password. Your school administrator can provide you with these login details if needed.

If you have any questions about how grades work or how your child is doing, please reach out to your child's teacher or principal.