

# Grading that truly reflects what students have learned



**Grades show the competencies our students have developed, as well as their growth. We want grades to reflect the fact that students will be growing and improving in their abilities throughout the year.**

## Grades should show mastery

As educators and parents, we know students learn and grow the most when they encounter challenges. Too often in a typical classroom, high-performing students are bored, while other students struggle to keep up. Our approach to teaching is designed to be challenging for all students.

In the past, students were able to obtain high grades by just participating in class or doing their homework. That doesn't mean that they had truly mastered content, and it certainly wasn't a reflection of their development of the lifelong skills.

We are all about raising the bar and doing better for our students.

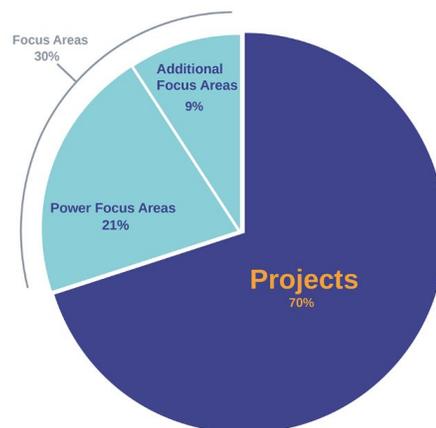
## Teachers are connecting with your child more than before

As experts in a given subject, teachers put their expertise to use by teaching not only content knowledge, but by teaching students how to apply that knowledge to the world around them through real-world projects that are centered around the development of lifelong skills like critical thinking, analysis, problem-solving, and writing.

## Content knowledge is central to every class

In addition to whole – and small – group lessons by the teacher, students are given the chance to learn through via a range of resources – from textbooks to educational videos and podcasts. Because they're allowed to continue studying if they don't pass a content quiz or test on their first try, students learn and retain more information over time.

## Grades for all courses except math are calculated as follows



70%: Cognitive Skills through Projects  
30%: Mastery of content in Focus Areas through Content Assessments

- 21%: Power Focus Areas
- 9%: Additional Focus Areas

**Grades may look different now than they did in the past, and that's okay. We believe that our grading method gives parents and students a much more accurate view of where a student is particularly strong and where they have areas for improvement.**

# Mastery learning and skills-based grading is centered on what students demonstrate they have learned

## What are “incompletes”?

One major difference in grading this year is the *Incomplete*. An incomplete means that the student is either behind in their Focus Areas, below grade level on Cognitive Skills, or they may have an overdue project. **It is not the same as an F**, it just means a student isn't yet meeting all requirements and has some assessments to complete, or needs to raise their skill on a score. **The great news is that they have the entire year to master it.**

It's important to remember that early in the year or when a student is behind in a subject, grades may look lower than they will be as the year progresses. **Students are taking yearlong courses, and as they pass their assessments or improve on the rubric for projects, their grades will continue to increase.**

## Are students allowed to retake tests?

Yes, students are permitted to retake tests (content assessments) so students learn from their mistakes as opposed of being left with gaps in their knowledge.

Before Summit Learning, if a student didn't pass an assessment, they would be at risk of having to move onto the next subject without actually learning the content or being held responsible for their work habits.

If a student struggles to pass an assessment after a few attempts, their teacher will intervene and help them master the content. Learning science shows that a large percentage of learning happens in letting students persist through struggles and challenges and that's exactly why struggling in the safe environment at school and learning those lifelong habits is going to set our students up for success long after they've left school.

We are confident that all students will continue to learn and improve because our teachers and their mentors make sure each student gets the right support to master cognitive skills and content. With personalized support, students can achieve more than they thought possible.

**We welcome your feedback and questions as all of us to work together to support our students.**

**Please review our grading overview for more information about our policy**