

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why was there a change to the previous EPSD grade scale and GPA calculation?

Our study of research-based assessment practices has reinforced our belief that academic rigor is more a function of a high-quality curriculum and strong classroom instructional practices than of the scale used to assess student performance. Additionally, feedback indicates that students perceived the prior system to be inequitable and demotivating. We want to ensure that our students' grades serve to help them gauge their performance in the classroom and motivate them to achieve grades consistent with their effort and potential.

What is the "new" grade scale?

New Grade Scale (Beginning August 1, 2017)

Grade		Quality Point Values		
		CP/GP	Honors	A.P.
A	90-100%	4	4.5	5
B	80-89%	3	3.5	4
C	70-79%	2	2.5	3
D	60-69%	1	1.5	2
F	0-59%	0	0.0	0
	P or F	Not entered into calculations		

Wellness/Fitness grades are not included in GPA calculations.

How does the “new” grade scale differ from the “old” grade scale?

The “new” grade scale measures student performance in the classroom on a ten point scale. The performance rating in the “old” grade scale was based on ranges that were less than ten points. Below is a side-by-side comparison of both scales.

Old Grade Scale (Before July 31, 2017)

Grade		Quality Point Values		
		CP/GP	Honors	A.P.
A	92-100%	4	4.5	5
B	84-91%	3	3.5	4
C	74-83%	2	2.5	3
D	65-73%	1	1.5	2
F	0-64%	0	0.0	0
P or F		Not entered into calculations		

Wellness/Fitness grades are not included in GPA calculations.

New Grade Scale (Beginning August 1, 2017)

Grade		Quality Point Values		
		CP/GP	Honors	A.P.
A	90-100%	4	4.5	5
B	80-89%	3	3.5	4
C	70-79%	2	2.5	3
D	60-69%	1	1.5	2
F	0-59%	0	0.0	0
P or F		Not entered into calculations		

Wellness/Fitness grades are not included in GPA calculations.

Beginning in 2017-18, how will the GPA be calculated?

Beginning with the 2017-2018 academic year, the GPA calculation will be based on final grades earned in each course. Final grades are awarded based on quarter and semester exam grades. All final course grades will be assigned quality points based on the grading scale. Each course has a credit value which will be multiplied by the quality points earned. The total will be divided by the credits attempted. Quality points earned on the old grade scale will be combined with those earned on the new grading scale to calculate the cumulative GPA.

How do I calculate my final grade in a class?

The final grade for each course will be calculated by averaging the numerical grades for each quarter with semester examination grades. The semester exam average will always count as 20% of the final course grade. For example:

Full Year Course-

$$(MP1 \times 20\%) + (MP2 \times 20\%) + (MP3 \times 20\%) + (MP4 \times 20\%) + (\text{Exam Avg} \times 20\%) = \text{Final Grade}$$

Semester Course-

$$(MP1 \text{ Grade} \times 40\%) + (MP2 \text{ Grade} \times 40\%) + (\text{Exam} \times 20\%) = \text{Final Grade}$$

What is the main difference between the “old” and “new” GPA calculation?

The major difference between the “old” and “new” GPA calculation is that the “new” calculation assigns quality points based on the final grade earned. Final grades are awarded on quarter and semester exam grades, and since the calculation is based on the final grade, GPA will be reported once annually at the end of the academic year. The “old” GPA calculation assigned quality points based on the quarterly grades and used the semester exam average as a fifth assignment of quality points. Since the calculation was based on the quarterly grades, GPA was reported quarterly and factored the semester exam average and an independent fifth calculation. In the “old” calculation, final grades were not used to determine GPA.

Will the GPA calculation and/or Grade Scale be retroactive to previous years at EHS?

No. All grades earned on the “old” grade scale and cumulative GPA data have been locked and will not be adjusted. Retroactively calculating grades that already were earned causes multiple technical issues, increases possible errors in the calculation, creates confusion with grades that have already been reported, and creates credit issues for those students who did not earn credit on the “old” grade scale but would earn credit on the “new” grade scale if there was a retroactive calculation. In the interest of ensuring the accuracy and validity of this very important data, we decided to lock all grades earned previously and implement the new scale moving forward.

Will I still receive a GPA every quarter?

GPA will no longer be calculated or reported every quarter. GPA will be reported once annually at the end of the academic year. It will also be calculated and reported at the end of a student’s seventh semester to include only those courses that have concluded. Courses in progress during the seventh semester calculation will not be included in the GPA.

Will I be able to request a year to date GPA during the academic year to report to enrichment programs or scholarships that I may be applying to?

GPA will only be calculated and reported once annually and additionally, at the end of a student’s seventh semester. Therefore, it will not be possible to receive a year to date GPA outside of those timeframes.

How will the change affect me when applying to colleges?

The basic calculation of a grade point average is the quality points earned divided by the credits attempted by a student. Quality points earned on the old grade scale are locked and will be added to the quality points earned on the new grade scale. That total will be divided by the total credits attempted. Class Rank will be based on the GPA calculation as it has in the past and will be reported on the transcript. All of this will be clearly communicated to colleges via the “School Profile” that accompanies every student’s transcript when it is submitted to

colleges and universities as part of the admissions process. Therefore, the effect that this change has on students applying for colleges will be determined by their own academic achievement moving forward.

Will there be two separate GPA's that I will report to colleges?

No. Quality points earned on the former grading scale will be combined with those earned on the new grading scale to calculate the cumulative GPA for all students.

How will colleges be notified of the changes?

A "School Profile" accompanies every student's transcript when it is submitted to colleges and universities as part of the admissions process. The "School Profile" is a document that provides admissions staff with contextual information about our school, such as information about our community, course offerings, grade point average, and standardized test scores. The document also includes our grading scale. The Emmaus High School Profile has been revised to explain the old and new grading system and calculation of grade point average. The updated profile will provide admissions staff the information needed to accurately evaluate a student's transcript during the application review process.

How did the "old" grading scale impact college admissions?

When we send student transcripts to colleges and universities as part of the admission process, we include a "School Profile" document that provides them with contextual information about our school, such as information about our community, course offerings, and average test scores. The document also includes our grading scale. Because every school is different, admissions officers use the information contained on the profile document to place a student's academic record into context when comparing it with those of students from other schools.

How will Class Rank be affected by this change?

Class Rank will be computed at the end of each academic year on a percentile basis. Ranking will be based on the cumulative GPA for grades nine through twelve. This will differ because it will not be calculated quarterly. It will also be reported on a 1-100% scale with 1% being the top ranking and 100% being the lowest possible ranking. This differs from the previous scale used where 100% was the top ranking and 1% was the lowest ranking possible. This change is more consistent with those schools who still report ranking.

Due to the change in the calculation, how will Honor Roll be affected?

Requirements for Honor Roll status will not change. Students will still be recognized for Honor Roll quarterly. However, since GPA will only be calculated at the end of the school year, Honor Roll will be calculated on a Quarterly Point Average (QPA) and reported on the report card. This calculation will assign quality points to the quarter grades and calculate a QPA to determine

Honor Roll status. Those earning Honor Roll status will continue to receive that communication on their quarterly report cards.