



East Penn School District

Emmaus High School

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August 15, 2017

Dear EHS Students and Parents/Guardians,

As you know, Emmaus High School proudly boasts a longstanding tradition of excellence. Many factors contribute to this tradition, including: strong parent and community support, an excellent teaching staff, high expectations for students, and high levels of academic rigor in our classrooms.

For the past two years, an instructional leadership team in East Penn has been working to examine our district-wide assessment practices and evaluate them in terms of their efficacy and equity. Through that process, the secondary grading scale and high school grade point average calculations emerged as an area in need of revision.

Emmaus High School reports numerical grades on student report cards (ie: 92, 85), rather than letter grades; these numerical grades are then assigned quality points to calculate a student's grade point average. The scale that we have traditionally used to determine which numerical grades "equal" an A, B, C, D or F for GPA calculation purposes is different than many other school districts. For example, a student who earns the equivalent of an "A" in East Penn must achieve a 92% or higher; however, at other similarly situated high schools a student can earn a 90% or higher and receive the same letter grade.

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 from students over time has indicated that they perceive the current 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.

For these reasons, we have decided to modify the grading scale and calculation of student GPA to be more consistent with other schools both regionally and nationally. This change will go into effect beginning with the 2017-18 school year. A chart showing the new scale is provided below, along with information about how students' GPAs will be calculated. Please note that the change will not be retroactive, so grades previously issued and GPAs calculated prior to the change will not be affected.

Old Grade Scale (Before July 31, 2017)

New Grade Scale (Beginning August 1, 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		

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.

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The GPA calculation will be based on final grades earned in each course. GPA will be reported once annually at the end of the academic year. It will also be calculated at the end of a student's seventh semester.

To further understand the changes being made, please visit the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) page available on the academics page of the high school website. Should you have questions or concerns that are not addressed in this letter or the FAQ page, please feel free to reach out to your child's counselor or grade level principal beginning on the first day of school. Enjoy the remaining days of summer break. We look forward to welcoming students back on August 28th.

Sincerely,



Dr. Kate Kieres, Principal