

Grade Point Average (GPA) at Willows Preparatory School 2019-2020



At WPS we are always open minded when it comes to moving our program forward. We want to ensure all community members are well informed on the updates we make and the purpose of the changes we implement. For the 2019-20 school year we are introducing a grade point average system to complement the objective criterion as is required in the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme. The following is a brief guide on how we determine a student's GPA. The use of grade point systems is widespread in the high school setting and given the continuity of our program it seems a good fit to introduce a GPA for all students in the middle school grades at WPS. Most importantly, this new assessment procedure should allow for you to review your child's academic progress in ManageBac with greater ease based on its uniformity across subjects. Further information on assessment practices and reporting can be found in our assessment policy on the WPS website under the "Academics" tab.

Formative and Summative Assessment

A high-quality *formative* assessment (i.e. nightly homework, classwork activities, participation, short quizzes, etc.) should inform a student's progression toward a better understanding of the concepts and context of their schoolwork over time. This type of assessment will almost always inform classroom practices. *Summative* assessments (i.e. major projects, longer unit tests/assessments, final exams, etc.) allow the teachers to determine a student's overall achievement level across a variety of objective criterion having engaged in a unit of inquiry. Both are of paramount importance in an MYP school and a combination of these assessment types allows our community members to gain a deeper appreciation for our students' skills and knowledge throughout their time at WPS.

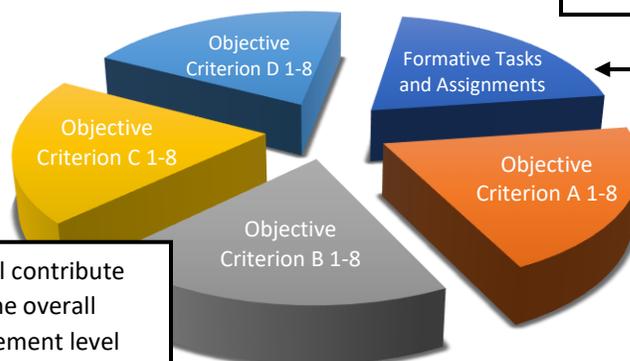
Calculating GPA

We determine a student's GPA using a combination of formative and summative tasks and assignments. The illustration below shows how the different assessment types contribute to a GPA. Further information on the subject specific objective criterion can be found in our syllabus summaries on the WPS website.

Formative tasks are graded for their completion between 0 (zero) and 4. More information on this grading scale is shown on the following page. These scores contribute one grade point to the overall GPA. The scores are converted from a percentage using this formula:

$$G.P. = \left(\frac{\%}{20}\right) - 1$$

GPA Breakdown at WPS



Each objective criterion will contribute one equal grade point to the overall GPA. Each criteria's achievement level corresponds to a specific grade point conversion as is explained on the following page.

Formative Assessment Score Descriptions (20% of Final Trimester/Semester Grade)

Every formative task and assignment will be given a 0-4 score for its completion. This is described in the table below. It is possible that different teachers will provide subject (or even task) specific clarifications regarding the standard for completion. This will always be provided in advance and usually via OneNote.

Additionally, teachers can, and likely will, provide further information in the form of a percentage, point score or criterion achievement level for any formative task or assignment. This additional information is purely for formative purposes and will not contribute to the overall GPA. In this way we can separate student progression from their overall performance grade. Thus, a more accurate picture of student performance and achievement is provided. This chart provides a very generic description of grading for completion.

| | |
|----------|--|
| 0 (zero) | The assignment was not completed on time and the deadline has passed. |
| 1 | Some compensation was given for this assignment, but it lacked timeliness and/or the basic standard of completion. |
| 2 | This assignment was late without excusal and/or lacked the standard of completion expected. |
| 3 | The assignment was either partially complete or complete but late with excusal (or similar). |
| 4 | The assignment was complete and handed in on-time. |

If you look at your child's ManageBac progress and notice a lot of "4" scores, you will know your child is completing his/her homework/classwork on time and up to the standards set by the teacher.

Grading Scale and Conversion Charts for Summative Assessment Scores (20% x 4 = 80% of Final Trimester/Semester Grade)

Every summative assessment is given at least one 1-8 objective criterion achievement level. The objective criteria for each subject have their own subject specific achievement levels that are not covered in this guide. Further information is available on request. The following is the necessary conversions for the grading criteria and the grade point scale. There will always be a certain degree of teacher discretion and 'best-fit' judgement in all grading matters, this is one of the advantages of objective criterion grading.

| Objective Criterion Achievement Level | Grade Point Equivalent |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1-2 | 1.4-2.0 |
| 3-4 | 2.1-3.0 |
| 5-6 | 3.1-3.7 |
| 7-8 | 3.8-4.0 |

We hope that this development to our grading practices makes for a more comprehensive and accurate picture of a student's performance. If you have any further questions or comments, please do not hesitate to be in contact with Head of School Philip Razem, MYP Coordinator Grant Norcross. We are happy to provide additional explanation as both students and families adjust to this new policy in. Thank you for your support!