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# **HOMEWORK & GRADING MANUAL**

**(PARENT VERSION)**

The Role of Homework and Grading in Achieving Student Success

An Introduction for Parents and Students

**2023-2024**



# The Roger Bacon Academy

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## Introduction

All schools operating under The Roger Bacon Academy management company use this grading manual. Law 2 at our family of schools is “Teach to Mastery” because, in so doing, every child can learn. It is imperative for students to master classroom content prior to progressing in the programs, and the grading provides guidance to the student on their path to achieving Mastery.

As loving teachers, we must resist our natural inclination to ignore minor errors and imperfections in our children’s work. When we give false praise or score work with a “100”, we have taught the child nothing. The uncrossed “t” or the unclosed “o” that resembles a “c” must be explicitly identified for the student to learn. In fact, we are deceiving the child and not teaching the child to discriminate fine points and nuances when, for the sake of kindness or the child’s “self-esteem,” we ignore their small inaccuracies.

Students must learn that perfection is the normal, usual criteria for our efforts in society and that the margin of acceptance for imperfection is extremely narrow. A roof that keeps out 99% of the rain is not a grade “A” roof or even a “B” or “C” - it is a grade “F” roof. Nor do we expect the pilot to land “almost” on the runway or the doctor to “nearly” cure our infection. As teachers, we can reward effort with hugs, with praise, or with extra privileges; but to reward effort with a falsely high grade is a disservice to the student.

A low grade must never be considered as a punishment. Rather, it should be viewed as a platform from which to build and measure the progress toward perfect skills. We must always pair a low grade with reasons and instructions on how to correct errors, so the student knows specifically what behavior – cross the “t” or close the “o” – is acceptable.

We must have high expectations for our students, and a major objective is to teach every student at their current achievement level. It is expected that a student first learning a new skill will not be at mastery and thus is not scoring perfectly. But as we coach the student and their skills improve, their scores should improve until mastery is achieved and then the student begins again learning new skills.

These high expectations ensure that each student is receiving the most effective education possible. As we go through the grading process there are numerous components to analyze. These include content, set-up, and handwriting. As you review the grading manual and as you apply it to your students, please remember that a score of 100 conveys no information to the student or parent on how to improve.

Baker A. Mitchell, Founder  
The Roger Bacon Academy



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## Homework Goal

Homework should provide students with practice of a skill or process that has been learned in class and thus can be done independently. Homework serves to deepen students' understanding of knowledge gained in class. A second important purpose of homework is to develop a student's time-management and task organization skills. Identifying these objectives allows us to assign purposeful and effective homework.

Homework objective, by grade:

- K-2: Reinforce skills or processes learned in class. Parent involvement should function only to facilitate accomplishment of the assignment, for example, initiating homework sessions and reading or explaining the assignment to your student.
- 3-5: Reinforce skills or processes learned in class. Students are able to complete assignments independently and develop fluency. Homework is the practice by which students gain fluency. Parent involvement should function only to facilitate accomplishment of the assignment, for example, initiation of homework sessions and providing strategic assistance, if needed.
- 6-8: Reinforce skills or processes learned in class or studying for upcoming assessments. Projects and / or compositions will be assigned periodically with ample time given to complete the assignments. Projects and compositions will be worked on in class but may need additional time at home. Parent involvement should function to encourage effective time-management behaviors.

## Homework Design

We ensure that the objectives, above, are practicable by assigning homework at the students' achievement level. Teachers are trained and expected to thoughtfully and correctly assign homework that students can complete independently and that is challenging enough to maintain interest and produce improvement. Teachers use the following guidelines from Mager's *Preparing Instruction Objectives* to correctly prescribe homework:

- Performance: An objective always states what the learner is expected to be able to do and/or produce to be considered competent.
- Condition: An objective describes the important conditions (if any) under which the performance is to occur.
- Criterion: An objective describes the criteria of acceptable performance; that is, it says how well someone would have to perform to be considered competent.

All papers should have a heading with the following template written along the top right side of the paper.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Homeroom \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Subject \_\_\_\_\_ Lesson \_\_\_\_\_

If homework is assigned it will be graded. Homework assignments should be graded and provided to students for feedback within three school days after the assignment was turned in.



## Parent Involvement

Parents should provide adequate time and a proper environment for homework assignments to be completed. We encourage parents to be available to provide strategic assistance, but discourage parents from providing work or answers to students, as this limits student improvement opportunity and is not in compliance with the School Pledge. Strategic assistance, however, aims to remove barriers to student learning, such as clarifying assignment questions when needed, or to direct students to the correct next step. It is important that students arrive at solutions by themselves.

Parents and students need to understand the expectations for homework. Clearly designed expectations and conditions ease tensions about homework. We encourage parents and students to consider the following before beginning the homework assignments:

- What is the purpose?
- How much time will it take?
- What are the consequences if missing or late?
- Does my level of parent involvement limit or improve my student's learning?

## Amount of Homework Assigned

Homework is not to be assigned over vacation periods, long weekends, or Fridays. Unless it is to finish classwork left incomplete these guidelines will be followed. Teachers shall keep to the following guidelines when assigning homework regarding length.

<b>Kindergarten:</b>	<b>20-30 minutes</b>
<b>First and Second Grade:</b>	<b>35-45 minutes</b>
<b>Third Grade:</b>	<b>45-50 minutes</b>
<b>Fourth Grade:</b>	<b>45-50 minutes</b>
<b>Fifth Grade:</b>	<b>45-60 minutes</b>
<b>Middle School:</b>	<b>60-90 minutes</b>



## Requirements for Grading In-Class and Homework Assignments

Assignments and homework need to be completed on time. All assignments will be graded and returned within three school days of submission.

Additional criteria:

- **Completion:** All assignments should be attempted to the best of students' achievement levels and turned in on the due date.
- **Follows directions:** Students are required to follow classroom assignment expectations. This includes, but is not limited to, showing work, using pencil, working down the page, and following grade-level format. Students will receive a one-point deduction for each direction not followed.
  - Beginning in 4<sup>th</sup> grade, all classwork and homework assignments will be completed in cursive.
- **Neatness:** Completed assignments should be legible and free of scribbles. Illegible responses will be counted as incorrect, in addition to the student appropriately rewriting each illegible response. If an entire assignment is illegible, the assignment will be marked as late, and the student will be required to complete it again.
- **Failing Assignments:** All work in grades k-2 that earns a score below a 70% will be sent home for parent/guardian signature. The signed work will be kept by the teacher and placed within the student's file.

## K-8 Incomplete/Late Work Policy

Students will be given three school days to complete the late or incomplete assignment. There will be opportunities during the school day to make up the work. Each day a completed assignment is late, a deduction of 8 points (per day) will be taken from the assignment's grade. If the assignment is not turned in on the third day, the grade will result in a zero.

In the event of extenuating circumstances, parents may send in a note requesting for their student to receive one extra day for completion.

**Teachers will communicate missing assignments to parents.**

### Make -up Work

Students will be allowed an equal number of days to make-up work for excused absences and early dismissals as were missed.

### Suspension

While suspended, the student is expected to maintain their academics and complete all missed schoolwork in the allotted timeframe to receive credit, as referenced in The Roger Bacon Academy Grading Manual.



## Letter- Number Grade Correspondence

Grade	Scale Score	Mastery Level
A	93-100	Excellent
B	85-92	Above Average
C	77-84	Average
D	70-76	Below Average
F	Below 70	Fails to Meet Requirements

Students are placed into classes based on achievement to ensure they receive instruction at the appropriate level. This provides students the opportunity to master concepts before continuing to the next level. This method of placement ensures that students receive a strong foundation in their core subjects of reading and math.

An “A” in a class does not guarantee that your child is on grade level. Some students are working below grade level. An “A” could mean that he/she are excelling at his/her current lesson progression. Lesson progression is based upon individual student achievement.

## High School Courses Letter- Number Grade Correspondence

**(8<sup>th</sup> grade- English 1, Math 1, Earth and Environmental Science)**

Grade	Scale Score	Mastery Level
A	90-100	Excellent
B	80-90	Above Average
C	70-80	Average
D	60-70	Below Average
F	Below 60	Fails to Meet Requirements



## How will a student's report card be calculated in Kindergarten?

### **ELA- Reading**

#### **Classwork: 40%**

- Reading Seatwork
- Language for Learning Mastery Test



#### **Reading Assessments: 60%**

##### Mastery Tests

- Mastery Tests occur every 5 lessons. Mastery Tests measure a student's mastery of individual skills, sounds, and words.

##### Checkouts

- Every five reading lessons, students are assessed for their accuracy/fluency rate. This means that students read a portion of a story aloud to their reading teacher one-on-one.
- Students are timed and errors are recorded.
- If the student does not achieve mastery the first try, the student will retest.

##### Guidelines for grading reading checkouts

- Pass on 1st try within program time and errors – 100%
- Pass on 2nd try within program time and errors – 85%
- If the student does not pass on the 2nd attempt, he/she will not receive any additional retests and the score will be a 70%. Student will be placed into interventions/remediation to remedy.

##### Curriculum-Based Assessment

- Every twenty lessons a curriculum-based assessment will be administered to check for student mastery and measure student achievement within the program.
- If the student does not achieve mastery the first try, remedial exercises will be provided followed by retesting.

##### Guidelines for grading curriculum-based assessments

- Pass on 1st try– 100%
- Pass on 2nd try after remedial exercises– 85%
- If the student does not pass on the 2nd attempt, he/she will not receive any additional retests and the score will be a 70%. Student will be placed into interventions/remediation to remedy.



## How will a student's report card be calculated in Kindergarten? (Continued)

### Math K

#### **Classwork: 50%**

- Both sides are completed in class with the teacher.

#### **Assessments: 50%**

- Saxon Math oral assessments are given every ten lessons.
  - These are to be separated by skill and counted as individual assessments.
  - Pass on 1st try– 100%
  - Pass on 2nd– 85%
  - If the student does not pass on the 2nd attempt, he/she will not receive any additional retests and the score will be a 70%. Student will be placed into interventions/remediation to remedy.
- Written assessments are every five lessons.

*\*If students are in Saxon 1 math curriculum, refer to math calculated in first grade.*

### Science/History

- Classwork 40%
- Assessments 60%

### Grammar/Writing

- Classwork 50%
- Assessments 50%

## How will a student's report card be calculated in 1<sup>st</sup> Grade?



### ELA- Reading

#### **Classwork: 40%**

- Reading Seatwork
- TRC writing Prompts-grading begins 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter
- Read Aloud Quiz

#### **Reading Assessments: 60%**

##### Mastery Tests

- Mastery Tests occur every 5 lessons. Mastery Tests measure a student's mastery of individual skills, sounds, and words.

##### Checkouts

- Every five reading lessons, students are assessed for their accuracy/fluency rate. This means that students read a portion of a story aloud to their reading teacher one-on-one.
- Students are timed and errors are recorded.
- If the student does not achieve mastery the first try, the student will retest.

##### Guidelines for grading reading checkouts

- Pass on 1st try within program time and errors: 100%
- Pass on 2nd try within program time and errors: 85%
- If the student does not pass on the 2nd attempt, he/she will not receive any additional retests and the score will be a 70%. Student will be placed into interventions/remediation to remedy.

##### Curriculum-Based Assessment

- Every twenty lessons a curriculum-based assessment will be administered to check for student mastery and measure student achievement within the program.
- If the student does not achieve mastery the first try, remedial exercises will be provided followed by retesting.

##### Guidelines for grading curriculum-based assessments

- Pass on 1st try– 100%
- Pass on 2nd try after remedial exercises– 85%
- If the student does not pass on the 2nd attempt, he/she will not receive any additional retests and the score will be a 70%. Student will be placed into interventions/remediation to remedy.



## How will a student's report card be calculated in 1<sup>st</sup> Grade? (Continued)

### Math 1 and 2

#### **Classwork: 35%**

- Side A is completed in class with the Teacher
- Side B will be for homework
- Word Problem of the day

#### **Fact Assessments: 15%**

#### **Written Assessments: 50%**

- Saxon Math assessments are given every five lessons.

### Science/History

- Classwork: 40%
- Assessments: 60%

### Grammar/Writing

- Classwork/ Chapter Check-Up: 50%
- Assessments: 50%

### Spelling

- Classwork: 40%
- Assessments: 60%
  - Weekly assessments

## How will a student's report card be calculated in 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade?

### ELA- Reading

#### Reading Mastery Program

##### **Classwork: 40%**

- Reading Seatwork
- TRC writing Prompts



##### **Reading Assessments: 60%**

#### Mastery Tests

- Mastery Tests occur every 5 lessons. Mastery Tests measure a student's mastery of individual skills, sounds, and words.

#### Checkouts

- Every five reading lessons, students are assessed for their accuracy/fluency rate. This means that students read a portion of a story aloud to their reading teacher one-on-one.
- Students are timed and errors are recorded.
- If the student does not achieve mastery the first try, the student will retest.

#### Guidelines for grading reading checkouts

- Pass on 1st try within program time and errors: 100%
- Pass on 2nd try within program time and errors: 85%
- If the student does not pass on the 2nd attempt, he/she will not receive any additional retests and the score will be a 70%. Student will be placed into interventions/remediation to remedy.

#### Comprehension

- Comprehension assessments will occur bi-weekly as well as a cumulative test every three lessons.

### Journeys

##### **Classwork: 40%**

- Comprehension
  - TRC Writing Prompt
  - Comprehension Skill Practice Page
- Vocabulary
  - Vocabulary Strategy Practice Page

##### **Assessments: 60%**

- Comprehension Test
- Vocabulary Test

*\*gradebook to reflect the program*



## How will a student’s report card be calculated in 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade? (Continued)

### Math 2

#### **Classwork: 35%**

- Side A is completed in class with the Teacher
- Side B will be for homework
- Word Problem of the day

#### **Fact Assessments: 15%**

- Students begin with just one fact assessment of 25 facts. Midway through the year, Saxon 2 will introduce a second fact assessment with 100 facts. Both fact assessments will be counted as an assessment grade.

#### **Assessments: 50%**

- Saxon Math assessments are given every five lessons.

*\*If students are in Saxon Intermediate 3 math curriculum, refer to math calculated in third grade.*

### Science and History

- Classwork: 40%
- Assessments: 60%

### Grammar/Writing

- Classwork/ Chapter Check-Up: 50%
- Assessments: 50%

### Spelling

- Classwork: 40%
- Assessments: 60%
  - Weekly assessments

## How will a student's report card be calculated in 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> Grades?

*Parents: Beginning in 4<sup>th</sup> grade, all classwork and homework will be completed in cursive.*

### **ELA (Grade 3)**

#### **Journeys, Wonders, STARS**

##### **Classwork: 40%**

- Comprehension
  - TRC Writing Prompt
  - Comprehension Skill Practice Page
- Vocabulary
  - Vocabulary Strategy Practice Page



##### **Assessments: 60%**

- Comprehension Test
- Vocabulary Test

### **Strategic Reading/ Intervention Programs/Corrective Reading**

##### **Classwork: 40%**

- Reading Seatwork
- Skill based comprehension worksheets
- TRC writing Prompts

##### **Reading Assessments: 60%**

Comprehension Tests

Check-outs or Fluency Checks

- Checkouts and fluency checks measure a student's decoding skills.
- Throughout the lessons, students are assessed for their accuracy/fluency rate. This means that students read a portion of a story aloud to their reading teacher one-on-one.
- Students are timed and errors are recorded.
- If the student does not achieve mastery the first try, the student will retest.

*\*Gradebook to reflect the program*



## How will a student's report card be calculated in 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> Grades? (Continued)

### Grammar/Writing (Grade 3)

- Classwork/ Chapter Check-Up: 50%
- Assessments: 50%

### Spelling (Grade 3)

- Classwork: 40%
- Assessments: 60%
  - Weekly assessments

### English (Grades 4 and 5)

#### Novels/Short Stories/Poems/Reading for Success/STARS

##### **Classwork: 40%**

- Classwork consists of follow-up comprehension questions, vocabulary, literature worksheets, and independent composition exercises.

##### **Assessments: 60%**

- Assessments consist of chapter tests, unit tests, and quizzes for reading selections and vocabulary.

### Grammar and Writing (Grades 4 and 5)

##### **Classwork: 50%**

- Daily Grammar Practice
- Expressive Writing Lesson Practice/Wariner's Lesson Practice
- Composition Practice

##### **Assessments: 50%**

- Expressive Writing Assessments/Wariner's Assessments
- Final Draft Compositions
- Journal Prompts
- Spelling Tests (Grade 5)

### Spelling (Grade 4)

##### **Classwork: 40%**

- Daily participation in spelling recitation

##### **Assessment: 60%**

- Bimonthly spelling tests





## How will a student's report card be calculated in 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> Grades? (Continued)

### Math

#### **Classwork: 35%**

- Students complete written practice in the classroom. This may include problems from their book, brief quizzes, notebook checks, BAM Fluency, and math procedures check. Students demonstrate strategies needed to solve problems they may see on tests or in daily work.

#### **Homework: 15%**

- Students complete no more than 15 problems from their books or worksheet.

#### **Assessments: 50%**

### Science

#### **Classwork: 40%**

- Classwork consists of follow-up questions, worksheets/quizzes, lab performance, and lab write ups.

#### **Assessments: 60%**

- Assessments consist of chapter/unit tests, major labs, and projects.

### History

#### **Classwork: 40%**

- Classwork consists of follow-up questions and worksheets.

#### **Assessments: 60%**

- Assessments consist of chapter/unit tests and quizzes.

### Latin (Grades 4-5)

#### **Classwork: 40%**

- Classwork consists of follow-up questions and workbook activities.

#### **Assessments: 60%**

- Assessments consist of formative assessments, quizzes, and chapter/unit tests.

## How will a student's report card be calculated in Middle School?



### English

#### **Classwork: 40%**

- Classwork consists of follow-up questions from reading selections, vocabulary lesson practice, literature worksheets, and independent composition exercises.

#### **Assessment: 60%**

- Assessments consist of chapter/unit tests for reading selections and vocabulary.

### Grammar and Writing

#### **Classwork: 50%**

- Daily Grammar Practice
- Wariner's Lesson Practice
- Composition Practice

#### **Assessments: 50%**

- Wariner's Assessments
- Final Draft Compositions
- Journal Prompts
- Spelling Tests

### Math

#### **Classwork: 35%**

- Students complete written practice in the classroom. This may include problems from their book, brief quizzes, notebook checks, and math procedures check. Students demonstrate strategies needed to solve problems they may see on tests or in daily work.

#### **Homework: 15%**

- Students complete no more than 15 problems from their books or worksheet.

#### **Assessments: 50%**

### Science

#### **Classwork: 40%**

- Two classwork grades a week consisting of quizzes, writing assignments, lab write ups, or end-of- lesson questions.

#### **Homework: 10%**

- Students will have no more than two homework assignments during the week.
- All homework will reinforce or be an extension of material taught that day or during the week.

#### **Assessments: 50%**

- Assessments will occur after every chapter/unit. An assessment grade may also come from an assigned project or major lab.



## How will a student's report card be calculated in Middle School? (Continued)

### History

**Classwork: 40%**

- Classwork consists of follow up questions, worksheets, workbooks, and compositions.

**Assessments: 60%**

- Assessments consist of quizzes, chapter/unit tests, and final essays.

### Latin

**Classwork: 40%**

- Classwork consists of follow-up questions and workbook practice.

**Assessments: 60%**

- Assessments consist of quizzes, chapter/unit tests.



## **How will a student's report card be calculated for Resource?**

The Resource Department includes Art, Music, Physical Education, Computer Lab, and Character Education. In addition to technical skills, students learn about each subject's history and famous figures.

Throughout each quarter, students will be evaluated based on their work in various areas including projects, quizzes, and in-class assignments. Cooperation with the teacher during class and with teammates on projects is crucial for success in any Resource subject. Failure to cooperate may result in a call or email to the parent/guardian, and a deduction of five points per day from their quarterly grade.

The Resource Department does not require homework, but students are highly encouraged to practice subject skills outside of class. In addition, students may need to make up missed in-class assignments.

### **Resources include:**

Physical Education  
Music  
Art  
Computer Lab  
Character Education/Health

### **Elementary:**

#### **Resource Grades K-2**

#### **Participation: 100%**

- Cooperation
- Engagement
- Participation in class

#### **Resource Grades 3-5**

#### **Classwork Assignments (2 or more): 40%**

- Projects
- Quizzes
- In Class assignments

#### **Participation: 60%**

- Cooperation
- Engagement
- Participation in class



## How will a student's report card be calculated for Resource? (Continued)

### Middle School:

#### Resource Grades 6-8

##### **Classwork Assignments (3 or more): 40%**

- Projects
- Quizzes
- In Class assignments

##### **Participation: 60%**

- Cooperation
- Engagement
- Participation in class

#### CPR Course

Students in 8th grade will complete CPR instruction to meet the NC Healthful Living Essential Standards as a requirement for high school graduation. Completion of this course will be documented in the state Student Information System.

#### Computer Science Course

8th grade will complete a Computer Science course during Computer Lab Resources to meet the requirement for high school graduation per G.S. 115C-81.90(c). Completion of this course will be documented in the state Student Information System.



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*"But I thought it might taste good!"*