



School District of South Orange and
Maplewood

COLUMBIA HIGH SCHOOL

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Assistant Principals

Marking Period Grading Guidelines 2026-2027

Beginning in the 2026–2027 school year, Columbia High School will implement a 50–100 grading scale for marking period grades. This change is designed to support a growth mindset and ensure that all students have meaningful opportunities to recover, regroup, and demonstrate learning throughout the year. While marking period grades will reflect the 50–100 scale, individual assignments, assessments, midterms, and final exams will continue to be graded on the traditional 0–100 scale so students can clearly track their mastery of course content. All four marking periods will use the 50–100 scale, recognizing that students' academic journeys are nuanced and that challenges may arise at different points in the year.

This schoolwide practice aligns with our district's commitment to equity and a multi-tiered system of support that is data-driven and student-centered. Research and practice across New Jersey show that the 50–100 grading scale promotes perseverance, resiliency, and engagement without lowering expectations, and it is already used successfully in many districts. Paired with other Tier 1 supports—such as conference time, tutoring, and academic skill development—this approach helps strengthen school climate by reinforcing the idea that every student's success contributes to our collective success as a learning community.

Establishing our 50-100 point Grading Scale for Marking Periods

The 50-100 point grading scale, grounded in our 2025-2026 school goal of fostering perseverance, is implemented with the intent to instill a sense of resilience in students, encourage a cycle of continuous improvement, and promote student reflection on learning.

As a district and school, we are deeply committed to providing a grading scale that encourages growth mindset equitably for each and every student. As we know, some students may experience hurdles to accessing Tier 1 support and practices. This scale is something all students can equitably experience as it is a schoolwide Tier 1 practice, and aligned to our district goal for a multi-tiered system of supports that is data-driven.

Grading/Weighting Periods

The CHS GPA is calculated using the weighting system described below. GPA is only calculated based on final grades. The GPA that a student sees in PowerSchool is only reflecting their completed courses and is not calculating any grades in progress. Students are advised that many colleges have their own systems of calculating GPA based upon the student's high school transcript.

Grade	Percentage	Unweighted Courses*	Weighted Courses		
			Academic	Honors	AP/Adv**
A+	97-100	4.33	4.67	5.00	5.33
A	93-96	4.00	4.33	4.67	5.00
A-	90-92	3.67	4.00	4.33	4.67
B+	87-89	3.33	3.67	4.00	4.33
B	83-86	3.00	3.33	3.67	4.00
B-	80-82	2.67	3.00	3.33	3.67
C+	77-79	2.33	2.67	3.00	3.33
C	73-76	2.00	2.33	2.67	3.00
C-	70-72	1.67	2.00	2.33	2.67
D+	67-69	1.33	1.67	2.00	2.33
D	63-66	1.00	1.33	1.67	2.00
D-	60-62	0.67	1.00	1.33	1.67
F	50-59	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

For the four marking periods of a full year course, CHS will utilize a 50-100% grading scale. In a semester class, grades below 50 will be adjusted to 50 in both of the two marking periods of the semester. This practice is designed to encourage academic success and promote student accountability. Note: For midterms and final exams, grades will be assigned on the full 100-point scale.