

Dear Parents,

This year, students will be receiving an average grade out of 100 on their report cards. Grades will be weighted by category. Each class has its own unique demands, and therefore the weight distribution for each class will not be the same. Please refer to your teacher's syllabus that was given out the first week of school or contact your child's subject area teacher. This is an example of how categories may be weighted in a class.

Category	Weight
Tests/Projects	35%
Quizzes	25%
Classwork	25%
Homework	15%

At the end of the semester, your child will receive a grade on a scale from 0 to 100. With category weighting, this means those 100 points come from different categories. In the example, 35 points come from tests/projects, 25 points come from quizzes, 25 points come from classwork, and 15 points come from homework, for a total of 100 points. Your child will receive a certain percentage in each category, which will determine how many points they get in each category.

Not every teacher gives quizzes or tests out of 100. If students are given grades that are not out of 100, this means their grade for that category will be calculated using a system called total points. Instead of averaging by adding and dividing by the number of questions of a test, their grade is calculated by taking the total number of points the student earned and dividing by the total number of points possible. To alleviate the confusion teachers will put the total points (if other than 100) in the title of the assignment.

By not grading every assignment out of 100, your child's grade often ends up being **higher** than if all grades were assessed with a max score of 100.

Example:

Tests		Quizzes				Classwork				Homework
92	98	7/8	14/18	11/11	14/15	5/5	10/10	5/5	15/15	90

Tests: In this example, tests are graded as percentages out of 100. The test average is found the standard way: $92 + 98 = 190$. $190 \div 2 = 95\%$. The student's test average is 95%, so they receive 95% of the possible test points. Since tests are worth 35 points on the overall grade, we take 95% of 35, which is **33 points**.

Quizzes: We take the total amount the student earned, $7 + 14 + 11 + 14 = 46$, and divide by the total points possible, $8 + 18 + 11 + 15 = 52$. $46 \div 52$ is 88%. This means the child's quiz average is 88%. 88% of 25 points is **22 points**.

Classwork: We take the total amount the student earned, $5 + 10 + 5 + 15 = 35$, and divide by the total points possible, $5 + 10 + 5 + 15 = 35$. $35 \div 35$ is 100%. This means the child's classwork average is 100%. 100% of 25 points is **25 points**.

Homework: In this example, the homework grade is also a percentage. Each student starts with a grade of 100, and they lose 5 points for each homework missed. Their homework average is 90%, so the student earned 90% of 15 points, which is **14 points**.

To find the student's final grade, we add all the points they earned in each category: $33 + 22 + 25 + 23 = 94$. So the student's final grade will be a **94**.

** It is important to note that the computer does this for us.

FAQ

What is the purpose of using total points system? Why aren't all the grades out of 100?

Using a total points system has several advantages. One being that teachers can make different assignments have different value on a student's grade. If each assignment is graded out of 100, every assignment is worth the same, regardless of difficulty. In the total points system, an assignment where students have to write a short response may be worth 5 points while a longer essay might be worth 25 points. Because an essay is longer and more detailed than a short response, it is worth more points and therefore has more of an effect on the student's grade.

My student received a 11/13 on a quiz. What is their percentage?

If you want to calculate their percentage, you divide 11 by 13 and multiply by 100: $11 \div 13 \times 100 = 85\%$. An 85% seems rather low, considering the student lost only 2 points on the quiz. That's why 85% isn't a completely accurate representation of the student's grade. When we calculate using the total points system would reflect a grade higher than 85%.

Again, several teachers will make assignments out of 100%. Some teachers are using the point system to calculate your child's average and final grade. Please reach out to your child's teacher if you do not completely understand your child's average on PowerSchool. Communication with your child's teacher is paramount to your child's education. Our teachers understand that the changeover to averages on the report cards can be confusing and are willing to answer any of your questions.

Fondly,

Mrs. Pellerito
Principal

Mrs. Darmanin
Assistant Principal