

CLASS RULES

1. Respect other people and their property
2. Always do your best
3. Pay attention
4. Follow directions

Those students who follow the rules will receive praise and reward for making good decisions and showing good behavior. However, when a rule is broken, students will simply be told to “PULL A CARD”. This results in an immediate consequence as well as a lowered citizenship grade. Cards are on a WEEKLY, not DAILY basis, and will “reset” every Monday. Below is the card system, along with the equivalent grade.

GREEN CARD 1	A	=	E
GREEN CARD 2	A-	=	E-
YELLOW CARD 1	B	=	V
YELLOW CARD 2	B-	=	V-
ORANGE CARD 1	C	=	S
ORANGE CARD 2	C-	=	S-
PINK CARD 1	D	=	N
PINK CARD 2	D-	=	N-
RED CARD	F	=	U

Citizenship cards are sent home every Monday for your signature. The cards must be returned the next day. Students will need to pull a card for each day the card is not returned and for any other missing assignments. Report card grades for the trimester are primarily the average of the weekly citizenship cards. If there is an outstanding behavior incident, that will be factored into the citizenship grade as well.

GRADING SYSTEM

There are three types of grades that are given in my classroom. Each category is listed below with a description. This will help you understand how your child will be evaluated throughout the year.

1. HOMEWORK: There are three possible grades that your child can earn in this category. The majority of the assignments in this classification are worksheets and spelling packets.

Receiving a “check plus” means that the work is neat, complete, and displays time and effort.

Receiving a “check” indicates that the work your child turned in was finished, but did not fully represent his/her abilities.

A “check minus” is given if the homework is incomplete, or if minimal or no effort was displayed.

When it is time to establish your child’s letter grades for report cards, the homework assignment will be combined with test scores as well as projects/writing assignments. When a child is borderline between two grades, and has mostly checks and check pluses, they will earn the higher grade. The lower grade is given when a student earns mostly checks and check minuses.

2. TESTS, QUIZZES, AND SPECIAL PROJECTS: In this category, grades are given using a traditional percentage of number correct. Here is the scale that is used in my classroom.

A+	=	100%
A	=	99-93%
A-	=	92-90%
B+	=	89-88%
B	=	87-83%
B-	=	82-80%
C+	=	79-78%
C	=	77-73%
C-	=	72-70%
D+	=	69-68%
D	=	67-63%
D-	=	62-60%
F	=	Anything below 60%

3. CREATIVE WRITING: The system of grading written assignments is based on a rubric with a score of six being the highest and zero being the lowest. Every writing assignment earns a number, which signifies how well certain goals have been met. These goals are the “Characteristics of a Good Writer”. They are:

-Grammar: Use of proper English (such as subject/verb agreement)

-Mechanics: Use of proper punctuation, capitalization, and complete sentences. (Watch out for run-on sentences.)

-Spelling: Students should be able to spell 4th grade level words correctly.

-Planning and Content: The writing sample is well thought out.

-Organization: Each paragraph has at least 5 sentences. The paper flows and does not jump from one idea to the next. The amount of paragraphs required will vary with each assignment.

-Spark!! This is a term I use in class that refers to vivid description and figurative language in their writing. Students should try to expand their vocabulary and utilize “power verbs”. The assignment should be enthusiastic and exciting.

NOTE: I have informed the students that it is not easy to earn a “6” on a paper. This is their main goal on writing assignments throughout the year!