

Grading and Reporting Committee

Final Exam Workgroup Recommendation re: AP/IB/CIE Student Exemptions from MCPS Final Exam

- After receiving the MCCPTA's formal opposition to the workgroup's earlier recommendation, MCPS reconvened the Final Exam Workgroup on November 19, 2007. Workgroup members discussed parent, student, staff and teacher feedback at length and, in the end, renewed the previously recommended option and added language (*in italics below*). The language below is the revised recommendation recently sent to Dr. Frieda Lacey.

All students enrolled in AP/IB/CIE courses during semester B are exempt from the traditional two-hour final examination *administered during final exam week*, but will complete an end-of-course, culminating activity/assessment that counts as 25 percent of the semester grade (same as final examination). *The culminating activity/assessment will be developed by school-based subject area teams and based on centrally developed guidelines.*

On November 5, 2007, the Grading and Reporting Committee enjoyed a presentation by Hollis Krotchko, Office of the Chief Technology Officer, and Betsy Brown, Director of the Office of Curriculum and Instructional Programs, regarding MCPS' current marking period calculation methods used (raw score conversion and summation conversion to percent) and Special Grades used in the Online Achievement and Reporting System (OARS). The meanings and accepted uses of special grades X, Z and 0 were explained in detail to G/R committee members. The materials from the OARS and Special Grades presentations are located under the [files](#) section of the MCCPTA GradingAndReporting Yahoo group.

Text issues will be shared with the Committee when they become ripe for discussion (this is determined by the One Text Committee). Enjoy the rest of 2007 and a safe holiday season with your families.

Please plan to join us for another MCPS presentation on the new standards-based third grade report card at the January 7, 2008 meeting, Carver Conference Room 120.

Beth Kennington, Chair Grading & Reporting Committee

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