

# TWKDMS Student and Parent Grading Guide 2015-2016

Teaching and learning at TWKDMS follow the principles of standards-based education. We're confident that this approach will prepare our students to successfully enter high school and earn a proficiency-based diploma.

Here are a few key terms that students and parents should understand:

- **Standards-based education** is a system of instruction, assessment and grading where students progress through their education by demonstrating their ability to reach learning targets in all of their courses.
- **Learning targets** are statements regarding the learning students will achieve. It is the instructional goal or objective.
- **Formative assessment** takes place during instruction, when students have been learning to the point where both the teacher and the students need feedback on the students' progress.
- **Summative assessment** is used to evaluate student learning at a point in time when the instruction of a learning target is complete.
- **Rubrics** or scoring guides present the grading criteria for student performance on an assessment or task.

Here are a few notable features of standards-based education at TWKDMS:

- Every class's units and/or lessons will have "learning targets" communicated for students and parents to understand
- Each learning target will be assessed with at least one formative and one summative assessment
- Grades will be entered into PowerSchool using a 1-4 grading scale
- Habits of Work and Learning (HOWL) will be recorded separately from learning target grades

## The Purpose of Grading and Assessment at TWKDMS

The purpose of grading is to measure student achievement and communicate progress towards meeting the learning targets in a particular course. Standards-based education helps educators communicate more information than just a letter grade.

## General Academic Achievement Scoring Guide

Score	Definition of Performance
4	In addition to the 3.0 knowledge, infers or applies in a new context or to a higher level
3.5	Demonstrates all of a score of 3 and some aspects of a 4
3	Is proficient with complex targeted knowledge (concepts, principles, processes)
2.5	Demonstrates all of a score of 2 and some aspects of a 3
2	Is proficient on foundation knowledge (skills, terms, details)
1.5	Demonstrates some aspects of a 2
1	With help, cannot do Level 2 work
INC	Incomplete can be used when work has not been passed in but the assignments are open for completion or replacement. Incompletes become 0 at the end of the term.

### Getting Information from PowerSchool

Once in PowerSchool, parents can click on the the “Category” link for each assignment and instantly access the full language of the learning target being assessed. Grades can be viewed as well.

If you have any questions about how to set up or access PowerSchool, please contact the TWKDMS Main Office at 562-7552.

*Click here for learning target information.*

The screenshot shows the PowerSchool interface. At the top, the PowerSchool logo is visible. Below it, a breadcrumb trail reads: Start Page > Student Selection > All Enrollments > Scores. The main heading is 'Scores' with a warning icon. Below this, there is a section for 'Advanced Algebra I A Exp. 2(A-B)'. Underneath, there are fields for 'Final Letter Grade' (displaying '--'), 'Teacher Comments', and 'Section Description'. At the bottom, there is a table with the following columns: 'Due Date', 'Category', and 'Assignment'. The table contains two rows of data. A blue arrow points to the 'Category' column.

Due Date	Category	Assignment
	Evaluating Expo	Chapter One Unit Quiz: Formative
	Evaluating Expo	Chapter One Unit Test: Summative