



Technology Can Change the Way We Think (About Grading)



Dear Parents,

An exciting, new school year is upon us and I would like to share with you information about the technology grading process at Hayt School for the 2011-2012 school year. Students in grades 4-8 will continue to use the A-F scale, based on the CPS breakdowns for grades.

A = 90 to 100%

B = 80 to 89.9%

C = 70-79.9 %

D = 60-69.9%

For most upper grade students, a Learning Technologies skill level of “Basic” or “Competent” is an accurate explanation of your child’s technology skill level and performance, and would be considered a report card “C” code = Meets the Standard. Educational statistics have shown that the majority of performance is in the “C” range. Based on proficiency/knowledge some students may fall above or below the standard level. Let's work on getting our students to the highest level!

Your child’s grades may be reviewed online using a computer by creating an account and using the CPS Parent Portal link (<https://parent.cps.k12.il.us/pc/default.aspx>). To create an account, you will need to have your student’s PIN # and CPS Student ID#. (PIN# letters went home to each parent two years ago. If you no longer have that letter, please notify me in writing with the name of your child, and I can provide the PIN# information. Your child’s Student ID# is found on the front of a previous report card). Check the Hayt Calendar to find out when Parent Portal help is available at Hayt.

Grade 5-8 students are required to memorize their CPS ID#’s because the numbers are required when taking online CPS tests or when using CPS email. Students are required to use their CPS ID#’s in high school.

I have set up my technology gradebook with the following tech category percentage breakdowns:

Tech Leadership / Digital Citizen 10%

Class Participation 15%

Class Assignments 30%

Projects 30%

Tests 15%

Extra Credit – might help raise a score

It is important for students to make up missing tech assignments. Some sections cannot be made up. Technology assignments will be posted on my website under the grading / assignments section (<http://smentek.org> → Grading → Tech 211 Assignment Directions). You can also access the tech assignments by starting at the Hayt School website (<http://hayt.cps.k12.il.us> → Student Classes & Programs → Enrichment Classes → Mrs. Smentek).

Extra credit possibilities/ suggestions are, also, will be listed on my website.

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Tech Leadership / Digital Citizen is related to Hayt's PBIS goals (Be Responsible, Be Respectful, Be Determined to Achieve) and includes these rules:

1. Your computer area is clean – there are no markings on table, chair, computer and the chair is pushed in.
2. Headphones are neatly wrapped up / headphone coverings are in place.
3. No extra icons are on the desktop / nothing has been deleted from the desktop.
4. You are respectful of others' equipment.
5. You are respectful when directions are being given and when others are sharing pertinent information.
6. No other student's work has been deleted by you.
7. Your voice is not loud in the Tech Lab.
8. You bring pencil to class.

As we work our way through the 2011-2012 school year, **students ask how they can raise their final grades for each quarter. Obviously, some projects are worth more than others. Here are some possible suggestions:**

1. Create a PowerPoint presentation in relation to a core subject. (This requires my and a classroom teacher's pre-approval.)
2. Create a video presentation related to a topic studied in a core subject. (This requires my and a classroom teacher's pre-approval.)
3. Create an extra credit word processed report related to a topic studied in a core subject. (This requires my and a classroom teacher's pre-approval.)
4. Create a Windows Movie Maker / PhotoStory3 presentation related to a topic studied in a core subject. (This requires my and a classroom teacher's pre-approval.)
5. Come to class ready to give a 1 ½ minute presentation on a current / cutting edge technology topic you read about. You must bring the article to class.
6. With input from younger grade level teachers, create a presentation (like those above) that the teacher could use in class to help explain / present a topic that class is studying. (This requires my and a classroom teacher's pre-approval.)
7. With the pre-approval of the Stephen K. Hayt administration, create / complete some project helpful to the administration.
8. With the pre-approval of a Stephen K. Hayt coach, create / complete some tool helpful to them.
9. With the pre-approval of an extra curricular moderator, create / complete some software tool useful to them.
10. Help your teacher trouble-shoot a tech problem in the classroom. Write a description of what you did and how it helped the teacher. Have the teacher sign your explanation.
11. Use Scratch software, Gloster, GoAnimate, Voice Thread, or some Web2.0 tool to present a technology or curricular lesson to others.
12. Create a slide presentation about some technology topic in FirstClass. Share the slide show with the class.

These are but twelve suggestions. If a student has other equally interesting and involved ideas they are invited to bring them forward.

Sincerely,

Ms. Linda Smentek, Technology Facilitator / Technology Coordinator