

About Grades in Mr. Durand's Class

Grades as Levels of Mastery

Your grade in Mr. Durand's science course will be based on and meant to represent the extent to which you master the standards as described by the State of California. Although you will ultimately receive a letter grade of A through F, assessments in class will measure your mastery on a one-through-five scale. These numbers will represent mastery as described below.

5	Advanced	In addition to level-4 performance, in-depth inferences and applications go BEYOND what was taught in class
4	Proficient	No major errors or omissions regarding any of the information, terminology and/or processes that were explicitly taught in class
3	Basic	No major errors or omissions regarding the SIMPLER details and processes BUT major errors or omissions regarding the more complex ideas and processes
2	Below Basic	Some major errors and/or omissions regarding the SIMPLER details and processes and major errors or omissions regarding the more complex ideas and processes
1	Far Below Basic	Very little or no understanding or skill demonstrated

Each assessment - tests, quizzes, projects, writing assignments, labs, etc - will be assessed using the scale above. In other words, if there are no errors in the simple content the student will receive a score of no lower than 3, if there are no errors in the complex content the student will receive a score of no lower than 4, and if a student can apply the concepts beyond what was explicitly taught in class the student might be assigned a score as high as 5.

Formative and Summative Assessments

Formative

During a unit of study, quizzes and other assessments will be completed in order to measure progress towards mastery of the standards for that unit. These are *formative* assessments and are meant to inform both the student and teacher about what needs to be accomplished towards mastery. These scores will be entered into the grade book as a way of tracking progress and will be used, if need be, to assign letter grades before a unit of study is completed. But these ARE NOT GRADES even though they may be forced to be used that way in the interim. Formative assessments will not always measure at the highest levels of mastery. For instance a quiz dealing only with

vocabulary might have a maximum score of 3, since it would not contain any complex content.

Summative

At the end of each unit of study there will be a summative exam (test), and there will almost always be another summative measure of mastery such as a project or lab. If students score higher on these summative measures than on previous formative measures, the final summative score over-rides previous scores in determining their unit score for that unit of study. There will almost always be a second opportunity to show mastery through a summative exam and/or summative project.

Unit Scores

In addition to the gradebook entries for each assessment there will be a “Unit Score” entry which will be updated when each new assessment is entered into the gradebook. This Unit Score will be the only score averaged towards the grade displayed in Aeries. After the first quiz of a unit, the unit score will be the same as the score on that quiz. With each subsequent assessment the unit score will be updated to represent the student’s overall mastery. If the average of the summative assessments is greater than the previous formative assessments the unit score will be updated to reflect overall mastery.

Work Habits

All classwork and homework completed towards mastering the standards, but not part of a formative or summative assessment, will be recorded into a work habits grade that is not averaged into the semester letter grade.

Semester Grades

Semester grades will be determined by averaging the unit scores recorded during that semester. This will yield a score of zero-five, since 5 - Advanced - will be equated with “A” and 4 - Proficient - will be equated with “B” the following conversion table can help you interpret scores as displayed by Aeries.

4.1 - 5	Advanced
3.25 - 4	Proficient
2.50 - 3.24	Basic
1.75 - 2.49	Below Basic
0 - 1.74	Far Below Basic