



March 29, 2019

Dear Parents:

We are pleased to share with you the new grading policy for secondary students (7th-12th grades) in Mastery Schools. Upon its founding, the goal of Mastery Charter Schools was to ensure a high bar. As such, Mastery created a grading system that required students to pass every course with a C+ average or higher (76). Any student who scored below a 76 would “fail” the course and be required to take the course again to ensure “mastery” of the content. In recent years, we received complaints that our grading policy actually lowered the bar by allowing for inflated grades. Additionally, we had to do a lot of explaining to colleges about the formatting of our transcripts.

In response to these challenges, a group of leaders and teachers were convened this past fall to create a grading policy that reinforces high expectations, maximizes student motivation and produces transcripts acceptable to colleges. After meeting with parents, teachers, and administrators, the following changes were included in our new grading policy:

1. Grades will be solely based on student work and reflect what students know.
2. We will communicate work habits (participation, homework completion, behavior) on report cards and through portfolios.
3. Our grading scale will be modified to a 65-100 scale.
4. Summer school eligibility requirements will be changed and might feature a small fee for students.

Prior to the end of the school year, Mastery leaders will be hosting information sessions for parents and students to discuss the implications this new policy has for students. In the meantime, if you have any questions about the new secondary grading policy, please feel free to contact Jonas Crenshaw, Jr. at Jonas.Crenshaw@Masterycharter.org. We are excited to continue raising the bar for our students at Mastery!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Scott Gordon'.

Scott Gordon
CEO