

As Salaamu ‘Alaykum 5th Grade Parents,

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with an understanding of your child's grade book which you will soon be viewing via Power School's "parent portal". Firstly, it is crucial to understand CAI's grading philosophy. Grading is meant to be *communicative*, rather than *evaluative*. This means that letter and number grades are *one* of the means we use to convey your child's progress. They are not used to "label" students. We focus on the *whole* child; their academic, social, and spiritual needs. Therefore, grades are best paired with written narratives that impart a deeper understanding of where your child stands. These typically accompany rubrics, progress reports, and report cards.

Assignments will be entered into the grade book as either *formative* or *summative*. Formative assignments are a reflection of a child's daily learning which will be comprised of class work, home-study, and life/work skills. This data is used to drive instruction and differentiation. Formative assessments will be averaged to make up 60% of a student's final grade. Summative assignments, on the other hand, are snapshots of a child's learning which will be comprised of projects, tests, quizzes, portfolios, and culminating activities. This data is used to gain a general understanding of a student's progress. Summative assessments will be averaged to make up 40% of a student's final grade. The final grade in each area of study is automatically calculated by Power School.

Grades will be updated on a weekly basis, in most cases, by each Monday, as a reflection of the previous week's progress. As you view your child's grades you will notice that each "assignment" will be labeled by the skill it reinforces. Furthermore, the unit and week will accompany it so that you can easily track your child's growth over time. For example, an assignment may be named "adding unlike denominators 3.5". This translates to the skill of adding fractions with unlike denominators and it was practiced during the 5th week of the 3rd unit.

Just as it takes time for your child to grow and develop, so does their learning. It is not unusual for a student to need several weeks in order to master new material. We hope that this letter serves as an effective introduction to a beneficial resource. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to email us at agarland@crescentacademy.org or hkamal@crescentacademy.org.

Jazakum Allahu Khaira,

Sr. Allie & Sr. Heba