



MILLBURN MIDDLE SCHOOL

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September 11, 2019

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome back and I trust that your children have had a great start to the school year. By all accounts, we are off to a good start at MMS. We are excited for another great year ahead of us.

Over the course of last year, we engaged in conversations about student wellness through our work with Challenge Success. One of the changes that we feel will reduce the level of stress and increase the emphasis on learning for our students is to alter our grading scale here at the middle school. This year we have removed the plus and minus grades from our grading scale and will issue only whole letter grades.

The new grading scale will reflect the following ranges:

90%-100% = A

80%-89% = B

70%-79% = C

60%-69% = D

0%-59% = F

The Middle School will maintain a 94% as the threshold for students to meet in order to be eligible for the accelerated level in seventh grade Math and ELA and for all eight grade accelerated classes except for 8th Grade Math: Pre-Algebra/Algebra/Accelerated Algebra in which students will be placed based on the summative scores created by multiple measures.

We believe that the adjustment to our grading scale will provide a more gradual transition for students coming from the Washington School to the Middle School. It will also allow the high school and the middle school to have different, developmentally appropriate grading scales that are transferable for the purposes of making ninth-grade placement recommendations. Placement determinations will continue to be made based on the high school's review of final averages and in line with their placement criteria.

We are looking forward to the implementation of this new grading scale and believe it will have a positive effect on our school culture and climate.

Wishing everyone the very best during the 2019-2020 school year and we look forward to seeing you at Back to School Night!

Warm regards,

John Connolly
Principal
Millburn Middle School

