

## **New Grading Scale and Weighting Changes Beginning SY 2009 – 2010**

The following is a summary of the grading and weighting changes that will be fully implemented beginning September, 2009. The changes address three areas:

1. The new FCPS Grading Scale
2. Additional weighting of Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), and selected dual enrollment college courses
3. Weighting of selected honors courses

### **The FCPS Grading Scale**

Changes in the FCPS grading policy include a modified ten-point grading scale that uses pluses and minuses. The new grading scale is **not** retroactive and will be implemented beginning September, 2009.

#### ***New FCPS Grading Scale - Effective Fall, 2009***

A (93-100) = 4.0	C+ (77-79) = 2.3
A- (90-92) = 3.7	C (73-76) = 2.0
B+ (87-89) = 3.3	C- (70-72) = 1.7
B (83-86) = 3.0	D+ (67-69) = 1.3
B- (80-82) = 2.7	D (64-66) = 1.0
	F (below 64) = 0.0

### **Additional Weighting of AP, IB, and Selected Dual Enrollment Course**

In January 2009, the Fairfax County School Board voted to change the FCPS grading policy by increasing the grade point weight (GPA) for Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), and selected dual enrollment college courses. Fairfax County Public Schools students who take a year-long AP or IB course are granted an additional 0.5 weight – for a total of 1.0 – added to their GPA calculation for each AP or IB course taken. Also, FCPS students who take selected semester-long dual enrollment courses are granted an additional 0.25 weight - for a total of 0.5 - added to their GPA calculation. These changes are retroactive for all AP, IB, and selected dual enrollment courses on students' transcripts. The seventh semester transcripts that were sent to colleges in early February 2009 included the additional weights for all applicable courses. The June 2009 transcript reflected the new GPA calculations. To ensure that this change in the grading system was fully transparent, every college admissions transcript sent on behalf of an FCPS applicant was accompanied by a letter explaining the new policy and grading scale. The selected dual enrollment classes that will receive the additional weighting include Complex Analysis, Differential Equations, Matrix Algebra, Multivariable Calculus, and Numerical Analysis.

### **Weighting of Selected Honors Courses**

Beginning with SY 2009-2010, honors courses in mathematics, science, English and social studies will receive a 0.5 weight. In these disciplines, students have the choice to take either a non-weighted standard level course or the weighted honors level course. The weighting of honors courses **will be retroactive** for currently enrolled FCPS students.

In addition, students at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (TJHSST) will receive a weighting of 0.5 for all required mathematics, science, English, and social studies courses, including semester courses that are required for the fourth social studies credit. The weighting of 0.5 will be awarded to all mathematics courses above the level of AP courses that are not dual enrollment and to all science, mathematics, and technology research and mentorship courses.

## **Honors Courses Receiving the 0.5 Weighting**

### **English and Social Studies Courses**

Pre-AP English 9/Pre-IB English 9  
Pre-AP English 10/Pre-IB English 10  
World History & Geography I Honors/Pre-AP World History & Geography I  
World Civilization 1 Honors/Pre-AP World Civ 1  
World History & Geography 2 Honors/Pre-AP World History & Geography II  
World Civ 2 Honors/Pre-AP World Civ 2  
Pre-AP US History  
American Civ Honors  
Pre-IB World History  
Pre-IB Comparative Government (when students not required to take the AP test)

### **Mathematics and Science Courses**

Algebra I Honors  
Geometry Honors/Pre-IB Geometry  
Algebra II Honors/Pre-IB Algebra II  
Algebra II/Trig  
Precalculus with Trigonometry Honors/Pre-IB Precalculus with Trigonometry  
IB Mathematics SL I  
Honors Biology/Pre-IB Biology  
Honors Chemistry  
Honors Physics  
IB Chemistry 1  
IB Physics 1

### **Additional Courses at TJHSST Only**

TJHSST Humanities Seminars, Math Techniques, Parallel Computing 1 and 2, Geosystems, and all Research and Mentorship courses in Science, Mathematics, and Technology.

The Instructional Services Department will develop a review process as needed, to ensure consistency in weighting. If you have additional questions please contact Frances Ivey, Director of PreK-12 Curriculum and Instruction at 703-208-7703; Craig Herring, Coordinator, 7-12 Instruction and School Support at 703-208-7738; or Rich Crowley, Coordinator, Guidance Services, at 571-423-4425.