

## New Grading Scale and Weighting Changes Beginning 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
A-	(90-92) = 3.7
B+	(87-89) = 3.3
B	(83-86) = 3.0
B-	(80-82) = 2.7
C+	(77-79) = 2.3
C	(73-76) = 2.0
C-	(70-72) = 1.7
D+	(67-69) = 1.3
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 yearlong 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. The weighting of honors courses **will be retroactive** for currently enrolled FCPS students.

#### 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