

BlueSky Online Grading Philosophy

Introduction:

At BlueSky Online, we believe that grading should be a compassionate, equitable, and growth-focused process that supports the diverse needs of our students. At their core, grades are a reflection of a student's readiness to succeed at the next level. Grounded in our mission to provide flexible, personalized education, our grading philosophy reflects our commitment to fostering resilience, engagement, and lifelong learning in an inclusive and supportive online environment.

Guiding Principles:

1. Growth and Learning

Grading provides an opportunity to encourage progress and celebrate student strengths. Our approach prioritizes learning growth over perfection and emphasizes reflection and perseverance. We foster a safe, supportive learning environment where mistakes are seen as learning opportunities, and students are encouraged to take risks.

2. Equity and Personalization

Every student is unique, and our grading practices honor individual learning paths. We offer multiple ways for students to demonstrate mastery. We provide opportunities for reassessment, flexible pacing, and varied evaluation formats to ensure accessibility and fairness.

3. Relationship-Centered

Relationships are part of our core mission and vision. Through personalized connections, teachers establish a holistic understanding of students. They act as mentors and advocates—academically, socially, and emotionally.

4. Clear and Actionable Feedback

Feedback is part of the learning process that encourages active student engagement. It is designed to provide students and families with a clear measure of progress and actionable next steps for continued growth. Through this process, teachers guide students to take ownership of their learning.

5. Strength-Based

We emphasize what students *can* do rather than focusing on deficits. By highlighting

progress and achievements, we strive to build student confidence and resilience, encouraging a growth mindset that supports lifelong learning.