



Helpful Tips for Incoming 6th Graders to Rocky Hill MS

Tip #9 - Grades - Students will be earning the letter grades A, B, C, D, and E based on the percentage correct. Teachers will spend time the first quarter talking about academic identity with the students (characteristics and habits of a successful student), what these letter grades mean, and the requirements to earn them.

***Homework** - There is a lot more homework in middle school than elementary school. On time completion of homework is essential to academic success. Homework is meaningful and helps students understand the material that will be on assessments. Homework can be daily or long term.

***Long term assignments** - When a student receives a long-term assignment, sit down and discuss the assignment and plan out specific times and dates to work on the task. Discuss not only the final product, but the daily activities and steps that need to be completed in order to complete that product. Time management is important and is something that must be reinforced not only in school but also at home.

***Parent/StudentVUE** - All students and parents will be given access to grades, interims, email etc through ParentVUE or StudentVUE. Students and parents should check grades at least once a week. Sit with your child and discuss the assignments and the grades earned. Ask to see your student's work in order to praise successes and make plans for how to improve areas of need. If you didn't receive your ParentVUE login information or are having difficulties logging in, please contact Lorie Quinn or Laurie Abita-Gramatges (media center).

***Organization** - Students need to stay organized all year! They need a 2 or 3-inch binder. Buy a few of the binders while they are on sale in the summer as the rings will break! We recommend making time every school night to have your student file any loose papers into the correct subject area. Teachers will help students set up their binder the first few days of school and will periodically do binder cleanouts. Please do not have students remove any papers unless directed by the teacher.

***Grading Codes** - In the portal as you review your child's grades, you might see some other letters or numbers besides A, B, C, D, or E. They mean:

1. **M** - The assignment was not turned in. The grade is a zero. It is expected that the student complete the work and turn it in the next day (not weeks later). Reasons for a M could be a student was absent, lost the paper, no name, didn't do it, etc.
2. **O** - The assignment was not turned in. It is past the deadline and will no longer be accepted.
3. **LA** - The assignment was turned in **late**
INC - The assignment was **incomplete** when it was submitted

If there ever is a discrepancy or question about a grade, the student should talk with their teacher about it. While this is hard for students in the beginning of the year, one of our goals is to teach our 6th graders how to advocate for themselves.

We hope you find these tips helpful, and if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to email me at Lorie.Quinn@mcpsmd.org