

How Your Grade Works

JOHN HAY BIOMEDICAL · GRADING POLICY AND FAMILY GUIDE · 2026 TO 2027

Every point in this class is written down before the semester starts. This guide shows you exactly where your grade comes from, what each assignment is worth, how the state exam can raise it, and what you and your family do every Friday to make sure nothing is a surprise in January.

1,000	4	1	18
POINTS PER COURSE	GRADE CATEGORIES	SEMESTER PER COURSE	FRIDAY REFLECTIONS

The four courses

COURSE	WHEN	PERIODS	STATE EXAM
Principles of Biomedical Technologies	Fall, Semester 1	1-2 and 6A-7B	WebXam 072110
Genetics of Disease	Fall, Semester 1	3-4B	WebXam 072130
Human Anatomy and Physiology	Spring, Semester 2	1-2 and 6A-7B	WebXam
Biotechnology for Health and Disease	Spring, Semester 2	3-4B	WebXam

Each course runs one semester. Your period decides which two you take. Fall runs Aug 24 to January. Spring begins Jan 19.

Where the grade comes from

Your grade is built from four categories. Each category is worth a fixed share of the grade no matter how many assignments it holds. Every course is worth exactly 1,000 points in a semester, and the points are set so the totals match the percentages.

CATEGORY	WHAT IS IN IT	POINTS	SHARE
Assessments	Final exam, four unit tests, and CER writing (claim, evidence, reasoning)	350	35%
PLTW work	Activities and projects you complete in the myPLTW portal	350	35%
Labs	Each lab is graded once as a whole: pre-lab, data, notebook, and write-up together	150	15%
Daily work	Exit tickets, vocabulary, trackers, and the Friday reflection	150	15%
Total		1,000	100%

Read this part carefully, because it is the part families get wrong

Your grade is a **weighted average of the four categories**, not a running total of points. Adding up your points gives the same answer as the percentages **only at the end of the semester**, when every category is complete. In the middle of the semester the two numbers can differ by a lot, because the categories do not fill up at the same speed.

Here is the formula, and it is the only one that is always right:

$$\text{Grade} = (0.35 \times \text{Assessments}) + (0.35 \times \text{PLTW}) + (0.15 \times \text{Labs}) + (0.15 \times \text{Daily})$$

Worked example. At the end of the semester a student has 315 of 350 in Assessments (90%), 280 of 350 in PLTW work (80%), 135 of 150 in Labs (90%), and 120 of 150 in Daily work (80%). The grade is $(0.35 \times 90) + (0.35 \times 80) + (0.15 \times 90) + (0.15 \times 80) = 31.5 + 28.0 + 13.5 + 12.0 = 85.0$, a **B**.

It does not matter which category you lose points in

Because the points are set to mirror the percentages, **100 points lost costs exactly 10 points of grade no matter where you lose them**. Lose 100 out of Assessments, PLTW work, Labs, or Daily work, and the final grade is 90.0 every time. That is on purpose. No student should have to do strategy math about which assignment to sacrifice.

The catch is that this only holds at the end, once all four categories are complete. In week 3, a student who aced everything except one missed 15-point CER has 93 of 108 points, which looks like 86%. The gradebook shows 65%, because Assessments is sitting at 0% and carries 35% of the grade. A 21-point gap from one assignment. Use the formula, not the point total.

What each assignment is worth

ASSIGNMENT	CATEGORY	POINTS	ABOUT HOW OFTEN
Final exam, full-length WebXam practice	Assessments	100	Once, end of semester
Unit test	Assessments	25	Four per semester
CER writing	Assessments	15	About ten per semester
Lab, graded as one whole cycle	Labs	10	About fifteen per semester
PLTW activity	PLTW work	5	Most class days
Vocabulary	Daily work	5 to 6	Occasional
Exit ticket, tracker	Daily work	5	Weekly
Friday reflection	Daily work	5	Every Friday

Letter grades

A	B	C	D	F
90 and above	80 to 89.9	70 to 79.9	60 to 69.9	Below 60

Letters come from the unrounded percentage. An 89.9 is a B. If you are within two points of a cut line, come talk to me, because a course grade is accurate to roughly plus or minus three points and that is worth a conversation.

The WebXam and your grade

Every course ends with its Ohio WebXam, the state end-of-course exam. It is scored 1 to 5. Passing it raises your course grade, because it is direct proof you mastered the course.

WEBXAM SCORE	RAISES YOUR FINAL GRADE BY	EXAMPLE
5	30%	A 68 becomes an 88
4	20%	A 68 becomes an 82
3	10%	A 68 becomes a 75
2 or 1	No change	Your coursework grade stands

The raise is a percentage *of your coursework grade*, not thirty points added on. A 68 with a score of 5 is $68 \times 1.30 = 88.4$, which is an 88. A 68 with a score of 4 is $68 \times 1.20 = 81.6$, which is an 82. A 68 with a score of 3 is $68 \times 1.10 = 74.8$, which is a 75.

TWO LIMITS

The final grade is capped at 100. The raise is applied to your coursework grade and cannot push you above 100.

Not passing does not erase the semester. Your grade is still built from assessments, PLTW work, labs, and daily work. The WebXam is an on-ramp, never a trap door.

Testing windows are Jan 4 to 15, 2027 for fall courses and May 17 to 28, 2027 for spring courses. Because state scores return close to the end of the grading period, the raise may be applied after report cards post. If that happens I will tell you in writing and the corrected grade goes on the transcript.

The final exam is a full-length WebXam practice

Your final exam is a complete, timed WebXam practice test. It is worth 100 points, the largest single assignment in the course, and it is the biggest piece of your Assessments grade. You will have seen the format four times before you sit it, because every unit test uses WebXam-style items. Nothing on the state exam should be the first of its kind you have ever seen.

Deadlines, late work, and how often grades post

The gradebook is updated at minimum every two weeks

You will never go more than fourteen days without seeing where you stand. Most weeks it is faster.

Late work is accepted for two weeks after the grade posts

The clock starts on the day the missing mark becomes **visible to you in the gradebook**, not on the day the work was due. You will always have a full two weeks to fix something after you can see it is missing. After that window closes the score stands.

Absences, and starting the class late

- Work assigned before your enrollment date is **exempt**, not a zero. You do not start in a hole.
- For an excused absence you get two school days for every day you were out, and the clock starts the day you return.
- Out more than five days, or dealing with a hospital stay, a court date, a placement change, or a move: come see me and we write a make-up plan together. No explanation is owed to the class.
- If your IEP or 504 plan gives you extended time, **your plan comes first** and the two-week limit does not apply to you.

Extra credit

Extra credit is offered during the semester. When it is offered it is announced in class with its point value, it is open to every student, and it is capped at 20 points per semester. Extra credit is available to students who are turning in their Friday reflections, because the reflection is how we both know where you actually stand.

The Friday reflection

Every Friday you fill out one page, front and back, and turn it in. It takes about ten minutes and we do it in class. It is worth 5 points in Daily work, the same as an exit ticket.

This is the single most evidence-backed thing we do. In John Hattie's synthesis of more than 250 influences on achievement, students accurately knowing and predicting their own performance carries an effect size of **1.44**, the largest in the entire list, against an average of 0.40. The mechanism is not writing your grade down. It is **predicting it first, then comparing to the real number, then explaining the gap**. That is exactly how the sheet is built.

What is on the sheet

- Your prediction for each category, written before you look at the gradebook
- The actual percentage for each category, copied from the gradebook
- The gap, and one sentence on why you were off
- What you turned in this week, and what is still missing
- A running tally of your four category percentages from previous weeks
- Any absences this week, and what you did to make up the work
- One goal for next week
- Your signature and the date

Signatures

Your signature is what is graded. The sheet is complete when you have filled it in and signed it.

There is also a line for a parent or guardian, because families should see this every week. A parent may sign it, or reply to my email, or send me a text, or check the portal instead. **Your grade, your extra credit, and your standing in this class never depend on whether an adult at home signs a piece of paper.** If there is no adult available to sign, you are complete on your signature alone and you owe me no explanation.

What happens if reflections are missing

One missing. I contact home and offer you a make-up.

Two missing. You, your family, and I sit down and work out what is getting in the way.

Four missing. That is about a month of your own record keeping gone. It is the stretch where students stop noticing a problem until the grade is already final, so we build a plan together.

Missing reflections cost you the 5 points each, the same as any other daily assignment. They are never a discipline referral.

Go Hornets.

