WYNDHAM LAKES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL HOMEWORK/GRADING POLICIES 2011-2012

HOMEWORK

* Homework will not be graded. It will be checked, reviewed, and students will receive academic feedback for every assignment.
* Homework will still be required. Students who do not complete work at home will be give opportunities during the school day.
* No homework will be assigned over the weekend. No long-term projects will be due on Mondays. However, students are still expected to read every day, including weekends, and ongoing items such as writing journals may be done over the weekend. Also, students who have not completed work during the week will be expected to do so over the weekend.

GRADING

* We are adopting a Standards-Based grading system, where all student work is divided into two categories:
  + Formative Assessments – these assignments provide a guide for how a student is moving toward mastery of a given standard, and include work sheets, oral presentations, projects, quizzes, quick checks, and any other type of assessment other than chapter/unit tests
  + Summative Assessments – these are major chapter or unit tests, and they measure how well a student has mastered the Florida state standard(s) being studied in that unit
* Formative Assessments will be graded, and progress tracked by students and teachers. These assignments will also be available on the Progress Book computer program for parents to check. These grades will not be averaged into a student’s final grade, however. They are used only as a guide to monitor a student’s progress toward mastery of the standard.
* Summative Assessments will be evaluated by the teacher, and these evaluations will be used as the basis of a student’s final grade. Teachers will be using a scale of 1 to 4, in keeping with current Best Practices, and rating each student along the scale. Those ratings will equate to traditional grades in the following way:
  + 1 = 65 (D) – Student shows only a minimal understanding of the standard
  + 2 = 75 (C) – Student generally understands the standard, but needs help applying it
  + 3 = 85 (B) – Student is able to apply the standard to given situations
  + 4 = 95 (A) – Student is able to apply the standard independently
* Students who are below even a minimal understanding of a standard (not able to rate at least a 1 on the scale) will be given additional teaching and opportunities to demonstrate the minimal level of understanding. There will be no F grades given under this system.

NOTES

* The grading for report cards and progress reports does not apply to Kindergarten or First Grade students. Those reports are already done on a basis of standard mastery.
* By grading this way, we have a truer measure of how each student is performing in relation to the Florida state standards. Students will no longer be able to inflate their grade, despite doing poorly on the unit test, by doing extra credit, worksheets, etc. This should produce grades that will be more in line with results on standardized tests, such as Benchmarks and FCAT.