



School Organization & Grading

Grading Guidelines

The 50 Rule

A score of 50 will be the lowest failing grade used to compute the average for each 9-week grading period. The rationale is that teachers need to reteach and retest children if they miss more than half a lesson.

A score of 50 is an F – there is no need to make it impossible for the student to be able to bring up the grade because they cannot recover from a couple of botched assignments.

Homework Rule

Homework will be assigned on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and on some Friday evenings. The only homework that will be assigned will be an assignment that has been taught and needs review.

The homework grade will be a minimal component in a student's final grade average. For some students, who often need help from parents, much of their ability to complete work is affected by their parents' ability or willingness to help at home.

Homework Policy

We believe in the importance of links between school and home. Students' skills of inquiry, exploration, and discovery can be strengthened if the home is directly involved in the learning process. Therefore, we will make it a practice of sending a weekly classroom blog on the classroom teacher's website. Click on the teacher's name at our website.

These activities should not require more than 10

to 45 minutes for primary students and not more than 60 to 90 minutes of time for middle students each evening. Students should be able to complete the activities with the skills that they have already practiced and learned in class, but parent involvement is both welcomed and encouraged. Because homework will be an integral, on-going part of the curriculum at PLA we pledge to:

Keep you, as parents, informed of homework activities and projects as well as due dates.

- Give students ample time to complete homework activities and projects before they are due at school.
- Be sensitive to the time which families need in activities other than those which are school related.
- Provide feedback on homework activities and projects in the weekly classroom newsletter or at conference time
- Keep homework assigned on Fridays to a minimum.



Quality Rule

Grades will reflect the quality of the work performance and will not be affected by the student's behavior or effort. Students should not be penalized by grades that are lowered for bad behavior. Conversely, students who really try hard but still cannot perform the assignment designed for his/her specified learning style should not be given a false sense of accomplishment by upwardly adjusted grades.

10/10 Rule

Each graded assignment should have at least 10 items for the student to answer with at least 10 grades per subject to average their final grade.

For elementary grades numerical grades will be assigned on a 10-point scale 90-100 (A), 80-89 (B), 70-79 (C), 60-69 (D), 59 or below is a F.

For Middle Grades and High School numerical grades will be assigned on an 7-point scale: 93-100 (A), 85-92 (B), 77-84 (C), 69-76 (D), 68 or below is an F.

Organizational Structure

Performance Learning Cooperative is a 501C non-profit, educational foundation that does business under the name of Sylvan Prep Academy (SPA). Donations and contributions are tax deductible. Interest paid for student educational loans is also tax deductible.

Board of Directors

Performance Learning Cooperative operates under the oversight of a Board of Directors. The current board members for 2011-2012 are:

John H. Keisling, Board Chairman

Lisa Gabbard, PLA Director of Education

Brandi Jones, Corporate Secretary

Denny Mitchell, Corporate Attorney

Michelle Whiteaker, PLA Parent

Virginia Kirby, PLA Teacher

Gay Sheperd, PLA Parent

Karen Hooper, PLA Parent

Credentialing and Certification

PLA is credentialed and operates under the oversight of the Tennessee State Department of Education. Students may also earn virtual course credits for upper middle and high school credit. These courses are credentialed by Advanced Ed and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). PLA offers special education services that include on-site delivery of vision therapy, occupational therapy, and speech therapy. Psychological testing is conducted by Emily Rummel, Senior Psychological Examiner/HSP. All teachers hold Tennessee teacher certification.

School Mascot

Our school's mascot is the mythical bird that never dies. The Phoenix flies far ahead to the front, always scanning the landscape and distant space, it represents our capacity for vision, for collecting sensory information about our environment and the events unfolding within it. The Phoenix, with its great beauty, creates intense excitement and deathless inspiration.

