

PURPOSE: Mandate uniform grading practices in each topic. E.g., Calculus, Chemistry, Physics, etc.

INTRODUCED BY: Annaliese Coughlin

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MISSISSIPPI SCHOOL FOR MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE SENATE:

SECTION ONE (REASONING):

There is a noticeable discrepancy between grading policies within academic departments at MSMS. Already under the stress of high-level classes, students should not feel at a disadvantage because of their teacher's grading practices – especially if their peers are being graded differently for the same work. This bill would establish a clear policy for each department regarding grading, quiz corrections, and test corrections.

SECTION TWO (SPECIFIC CHANGE):

COURSE SYLLABI

The faculty will provide a course syllabus to each student on the first day of class attendance. **Each class, regardless of instructor, will follow the same general outline for its syllabus. General policies, such as quiz and test corrections, lesson schedules, and testing dates, will remain consistent throughout all departmental courses.** The syllabus will serve as the basis of expectations between the teacher and the student. Each syllabus will state the course requirements, grading policy, grading scale, exemption policy, attendance policy, dates of major tests, papers and/or assignments, late work policy and any required or optional fees associated with the course. To make parents aware of course expectations, MSMS recommends that students copy each syllabus for their parents or send them electronic copies.

SECTION THREE (APPENDIX):

~~STUDENT INPUT~~

“I like this because I never needed quiz corrections until I got to Calculus 2. However, the teacher I had did not do quiz corrections because “college professors wouldn’t do that.” I feel I could’ve retained a lot more of what I learned if quiz corrections were the standard for the ENTIRE math department.” (MSMS Senior)

“...There have been times where I wished I had another teacher, where maybe I could get my desired grade without all the stress and extra effort without quiz corrections.” (MSMS Senior)

“If two classes are, in theory, testing on the same thing, the two tests should be graded similarly, no?” (MSMS Junior)

“It’s better to have some consistency for once.” (MSMS Junior)

“I think it’s necessary, particularly with Biology and Physics, I’ve taken Mr. Barnard’s class both semesters, and I get the impression that he generally goes easier on the grading than Dr. Palagi (not saying the grading is bad, but there is a discrepancy there that shouldn’t be).” (MSMS Junior)

~~COUNTER-POINTS~~

“I wish it was all the same and ‘fair’ but that’s never going to happen.” (MSMS Senior)

“This is kind of hard to do because although some teachers grade differently, they also prepare their students at a different level.” (MSMS Senior)