**Osage Trail Middle School**

**Communication Arts Grading Procedures**

The Fort Osage School District uses a standards-based grading system in grades K-12 to monitor student mastery of learning goals for each subject.  Standards-based grading is a strategy used in schools and districts across the country because it allows teachers, students and parents to closely monitor students' attainment of specific skills.

The Osage Trail communication arts content team determines student performance based on the following criteria:

Power Standards

* Working closely with central office personnel and administrators, we have extensively researched student performance data to identify “Power Standards.” Student learning will focus on these Power Standards which are essential age-appropriate skills that all students should attain to be successful in middle school, high school and beyond.

Guided Practice

* Guided Practice assignments are those completed as a part of the learning process. Guided Practice may be recorded but will not be used to determine a grade.
* Teachers will use a wide variety of Guided Practice assignments and activities to introduce and enhance student learning with a focus on the Power Standards.

Formative Assessments and Summative Assessments

Student academic performance will be based solely on Formative Assessments and Summative Assessments.

* + Formative Assessments are those assessments used to measure student learning *during* the teaching of a unit. Formative Assessments answer the question: “Who understands it and who doesn’t?”
  + Formative Assessments will include a variety of structures including quizzes, tests, essays, and visual projects that may include the use of computer technology. Teachers may also conduct informal, full-class Formative Assessments by having students answer questions with a “thumbs up” or “thumbs down,” or by conducting a “quiz” on classroom white boards. Informal Formative Assessments will not be recorded for a grade. Students will be encouraged to retake or rework Formative Assessments when necessary to reach proficiency.
  + Summative Assessments [also called “District Common Assessments” or “Common Assessments”] are end-of-unit or end-of-term assessments that have been developed by the grade-level content area team and are administered to all students at that grade level. Summative Assessments answer the question: “What does each student know?”
  + Students are expected to be proficient in the content, reaching a level of 70 percent or higher on Summative Assessments. Teachers may oversee instruction and re-evaluation when necessary.

No Extra Credit

* Extra credit will not be assigned during the course of the school year. Enrichment assignments may be entered for tracking purposes and for documentation but will not be linked to objectives and will have no effect on the calculation of grades.

We believe this grading process will provide critical information by clearly identifying areas of strength and concern as students advance through the school year. Additional information about district grading practices may be found at the Fort Osage Website: <http://www.fortosage.net/education/components/scrapbook/default.php?sectiondetailid=10345>