

Assessment Policy

*Lawton Chiles Middle Academy
April 2011*

School Assessment

School Grade

Each year our school is evaluated by the State of Florida and assigned a school grade. The last several years our school has continued to maintain an A. The grade is based on three factors:

1. Percentage of students meeting high standards (FCAT Level 3 and above) in reading, math, science, and writing,
2. Percentage of students making learning gains in reading and math, and
3. Adequate progress of the lowest 25% in the school.

Student School-wide Assessment

- **MYP** – Each of the eight subject areas will use MYP objectives with their MYP units, and students will be assessed using the criteria and rubrics. Each criterion will be assessed at least twice so that an MYP grade can be assigned. At this time the faculty is in the process of modifying the rubrics to make them age-appropriate. Departments are also defining the assessment tasks for each criterion using the IBO prescribed minimum tasks as a guideline.
- **FCAT** – state test; reading and math for 6th – 8th; science and writing for 8th only; achievement levels of 1 – 5; admin every spring; analyze test data on county-wide data day resulting in a tailored curriculum and the development of strategies for our School Improvement Plan each year; performance on these tests determine placement in some academic classes
- **Discovery** – administered three times each year to students in grades 6, 7 & 8 in reading and math; science test is given three times each year to 8th graders; stakeholders use this data to determine baselines, identify areas for improvement, and determine student learning gains.
- **Readistep** – countywide; administered to 8th graders in the fall; is considered a Pre-PSAT; any student who didn't take it in the fall will be given this assessment in spring; this is one of the tools used for entrance into our county's IB diploma programs.
- **Writing tests** – countywide; given to students three times each year in grades 6, 7 & 8. Students respond in writing to a persuasive prompt and to an expository prompt. Their writing is graded holistically using the same grading system that is used to score the 8th grade FCAT writing test.
- **Subject-Area Exams** – county-wide exams administered to students in high school credit courses (Honors Spanish, Honors Latin, Honors Algebra, and Honors Geometry) at the end of each year; used to determine if students earn high school credit for the course they took in

middle school – their semester grades must be an 80% or higher, and this exam is averaged into their semester grade as 30% of their grade – in algebra an additional criteria will be added in the 2012-2013 school year. At that time, students will not get credit for the course if they fail the end of course exam...even if their class grade is passing.

Recording

- All teachers have created and use MYP units, and most have begun modifying the IB rubrics.
- We have purchased the Managebac software that will enable us to easily record student progress and achievement on the various MYP subject-specific criterions. This software will allow teachers to track student progress on MYP assessments and assist teachers in calculating students' final grades of 1 – 7 in each MYP subject.

Reporting

- **County-wide report cards** – teachers report student grades in all eight classes every nine weeks. Grades are reported in letter grades (A, B, C, D, F). High school credit courses are reporting using number grades. We anticipate continuing using these reports cards. Parents can check the grades that are reported on the county report card any time via the Parent Portal, an online system available to all LCMA parents. Those without internet access receive hard copy printouts of students' grades every 4 ½ weeks.
- **LCMA MYP report cards** – our plan is to report student progress on the MYP criteria for each subject area annually. In addition we are planning on implementing a separate report showing performance related to the Areas of Interaction using services provided by ManageBac. Parents will also have real-time access to students' progress for MYP through Managebac.