

What do grades mean to students and teachers?

by Farren Linne, Verona Kamberi, and Carlos Orta
Staff Writers

There are two types of students in the world: the ones who succeed and the ones who fail. But despite their actual knowledge, it's all based on the school grading system. Whether you know the material or not, grades are there to determine your academic success. But should months of work be dictated by one single letter?

Every student is unique. While one may benefit from an oral presentation, other students are hands on. Despite our differences, we are all taught the same material the same way. Junior Brittany Slick states that grades aren't a good example of one's abilities.

"High school has just become a game of passing or failing," said Slick. "Grades don't represent your knowledge, they reflect your ability to comprehend."

Learning the subject in a class is much different than just trying to pass it. After all it's about learning and not just going through the motions, but whose responsibility is it for you to learn the criteria?

"It's more of a student's responsibility because the teacher wants you to do well in their class and they will ask you, but they can't make you," said junior Keri Thomas. "It all depends on the student's character and their attitude towards school."

Math teacher Evan Raber tries his best to help his students, but believes that students need to want to help themselves as well.

"As a teacher I care about the

students who try and put effort in the class," said Raber. "But if the student isn't willing to learn there isn't much I can do other than just be there for them."

Although many students will take matter into their own hands and do all the work to achieve good grades, there are just as many kids that don't care.

"You can't force somebody to get good grades, but as a teacher you do need to make sure they are getting the information," said Careers teacher Allegra Machado. "But

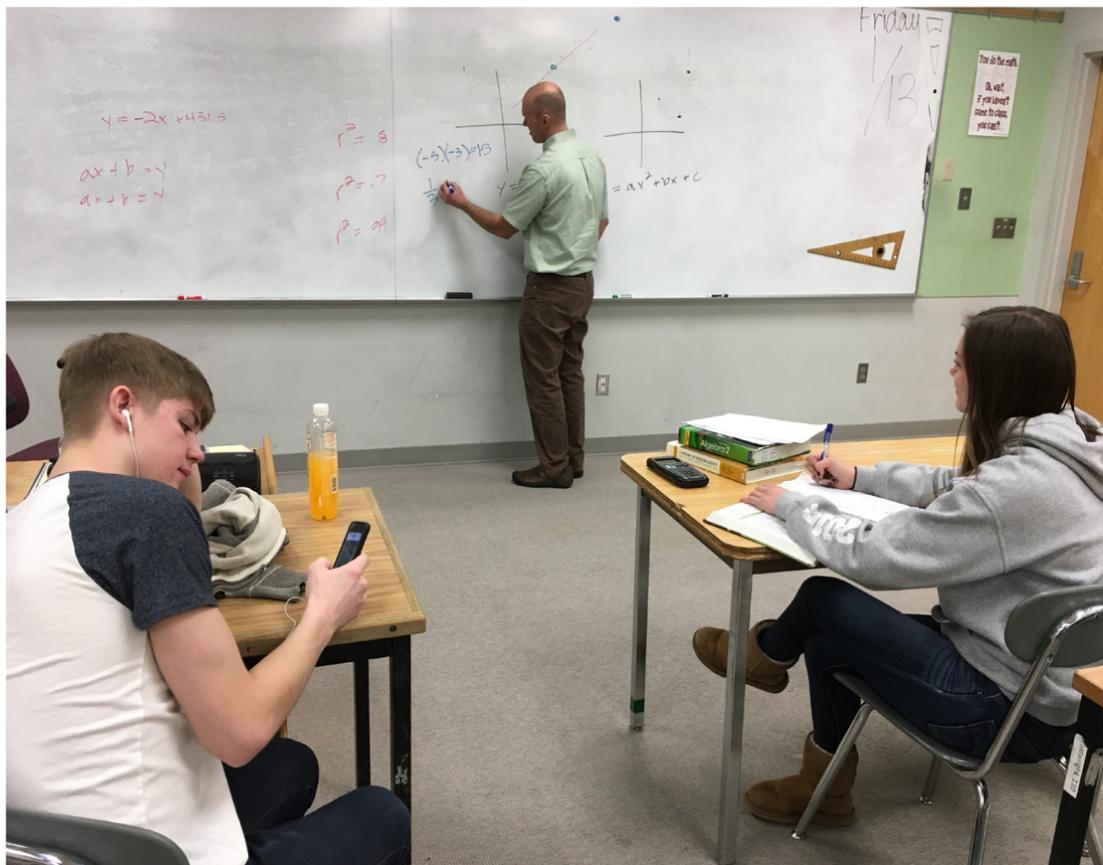
"Whether a student fails or succeeds, they shouldn't let a single letter determine their potential."

there are some kids that will get bad grades regardless because they have zero interest, and there is only so much you can do as a teacher."

It may be tough for teachers out there to get certain students involved, but it's not impossible.

"The best way to keep a student motivated that isn't interested, is to be personable, funny, nice, and maybe get to know the student on a personal level," said Machado. "There would be a better chance of them listening to you because they like you, even though they hate the subject."

Many believe that there is no correlation between what we are taught in school and what we need to know for the real world, causing this uninterest by students that is commonly seen by teachers. While



Keri Thomas (right) eagerly pays attention to Mr. Raber's lecture while Grant Collins (left) messes with his phone.

Picture by Verona Kamberi

school may help you develop character, Thomas believes that high school is only beneficial for further studies and not the outside world for the most part.

"High school prepares you for further education, it doesn't prepare you for life," said Thomas. "If the goal was to prepare you for life we would learn how to do taxes or how to buy a house, we don't learn any of that."

Although many students have the goal of furthering their education

such as going to college or trade schools and pursuing a career, others see themselves working in good paying jobs straight out of highschool. Careers teacher Allegra Machado has an idea that can help benefit both types of students.

"I think we need to revamp our school system and have two different tracks," said Machado. "Have one side for students that are college bound and then prepare the others for the workforce in good paying jobs."

While this idea of a new schooling system has yet to be created, students have to deal with what we have in the meantime. Grades mean a lot about a student's motivation and drive, but they don't determine one's success and failure in life. A student should have self motivation to do well in school in order to prepare them for the real world.

Whether a student fails or succeeds, they shouldn't let a single letter determine their potential.

A part-time teacher, but a full-time parent

by Farren Linne and Verona Kamberi
Staff Writers

It's not favoritism, it's more conditional response. Junior Joey Karlik raises his hand knowing that just one word would get his mom/teacher to his side over the other ten students raising their hands.

"I call her mom in class," said Karlik. "I am easily able to get her attention over the other students in my class."

Karlik explained how he easily adapted to being in his mother's class, but it was more challenging for mother Jennifer Karlik than it was for him.

"I was definitely more nervous about Joey being in my class than he was," Mrs. Karlik said. "But, it didn't take long for me to get used to the fact that he was sitting right in front of me."

Mrs. Karlik now has three teenagers in Kayhi. She has taught two of the three and stated how teaching both kids was two completely different experiences.

"I think the kids personality has a huge impact on how it's going to be," said Jennifer Karlik. "It was easy for Joey and I because we're so much alike, but I don't think Chris liked it as much."

While some students find being in their parents class beneficial, some find it to be more of a challenge. Junior Max Collins was in classes with both his mom and dad. Collins finds it to be more of a struggle to focus in his parents classes.

"I honestly prefer to be in a different class rather than being in my parents class," said Collins. "There's less stress not having to worry about your mom or dad looking over your shoulder. "It's an easier learning space for me

because it puts me in my own environment."

Not only was it tough for Collins to focus in class, but also changing

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the relation between him and his parent was unfathomable.

"I just called my parents mom and dad," said Collins. "I couldn't change the relationship I had with them inside of school compared to outside of school."

Some might think that if a student is in their parents class they might

receive the "special treatment," but that's not always the case. D Jay O'Brien believes that setting his children's standards high and pushing them will show others that he isn't providing any benefits that the other students wouldn't receive.

"I am definitely harder on my kids than the rest of the class," D Jay O'Brien said. "I do it to put forth a statement to anybody who is imputing my integrity."

Although some students and teachers believe that being in a parents class may be valuable, others see it as a disadvantage.

"The parent is a student's first teacher so in most cases it's beneficial for a teacher to teach their own child in their area," said Bob Marshall.

"However, in some cases teachers find that teaching their own child isn't a benefit for the student or teacher."

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