

Effort Grade Criteria - Science Department Statement

We believe that MPH stands for excellence in education. We therefore expect high standards for work and behavior in our classes. Since we expect high standards, we believe that an **Effort Grade of 2** represents excellence because it is defined as an expected level of performance. As examples, it is expected that homework will be in on time, neatly done, and with a genuine attempt to do the work. In the lab, it is expected that appropriate behavior and participation will be demonstrated. Students will arrive prepared, follow directions and maintain low noise levels for safety, show concern for others, demonstrate preparedness by using good techniques, and maintain a clean lab area. Lab reports should be complete, neat, organized and submitted on time. In class, students should come on time, be prepared, participate in discussions, be attentive, and respect both teachers and other students.

In order to earn an **Effort Grade of 1**, students must demonstrate outstanding qualities both in class and in the lab. This would include all of the qualities discussed for excellence, plus work that is consistently above average in quality and neatness that demonstrates detail and depth of thought. In the lab, qualities of leadership and responsibility with self-initiated study and preparation should characterize the student's behavior. Examples might include but not be limited to researching proper techniques before the lab, helping other students set up apparatus properly, volunteering to help put equipment away and clean up after the lab is complete. Outstanding lab reports should show depth of understanding in the analyses and conclusions. Outstanding class participation might include leadership qualities, demonstrating self-initiated research of topics, and seeking help or clarification outside of class time.

Performance below the expected level is grounds for assigning an **Effort Grade of 3** indicating that the student is lacking in one of the areas described in the first paragraph. This may include late or missing, incomplete or sloppy homework assignments. In the lab, this may indicate the student is unprepared, demonstrates inappropriate behaviors or a lack of participation. It may also be the result of late, missing, incomplete, disorganized or sloppy lab reports. Class behaviors such as tardiness, inattentiveness, disruptive or disrespectful behaviors would also result in an Effort Grade of 3.

Consistent performance as described above in one area or more will result in an **Effort Grade of 4**.

Classroom Policies

Absence

Students are expected to make up work missed following an excused absence. Students absent on the day of a test are expected to make up the test the first day the class meets following their return to school. Assignments, tests, and quizzes missed because of an unexcused absence cannot be made up.

Tardiness

Students who are not in their seats and prepared for class when the class starts are considered tardy. If you are late because you are working with another teacher, you must bring a signed note to that effect; without such a note you will be considered tardy, and you may not return to get a note. A behavioral conditional is given after every third tardy.

Cell Phones

Cell phones must be kept stored and turned off during the school day. Any cell phones found to be in use or that ring during class will be confiscated and turned over to the Dean of Students. Failure to hand over a cell phone is basis for a behavioral conditional.