FINAL SEMESTER EXAM POLICY

As a “College & Career Ready” institution, Piper High School believes it’s our responsibility to provide experiences for our students that will maintain our academic rigor and mimic the high stakes scenarios that they will experience after graduating from our school. To this end, the staff believes it necessary to provide a comprehensive final experience for each student in each class at the end of every semester.

1. At the end of each semester, a comprehensive, culminating assessment will occur, in the form of a written exam, a performance, or a project. In whatever form, it should allow the learner to reflect on his/her learning for the semester.
2. This final assessment may count for no less than 10% and no more than 20% of a student’s semester grade. If this culminating assessment occurs in several parts, the total weight still needs to fall within that percentage.
3. All Grade 9-12 students may be exempt from taking a second semester final in any Advanced Placement class for which that student has taken the AP exam.
4. For all IEP or 504 students, decisions about final assessments must follow their current IEPs or 504 plans.
5. Any exceptions to these guidelines for individual students must be approved by the principal.
6. All students are expected to be in attendance on final exam days for all assigned periods, whether they are taking the final exam or not.

Finals may be given using various assessments including objective written tests; oral tests, essay and open-ended tests, final projects or other performance based assessments. Finals should represent a cumulative effort by the student that demonstrates an ability to integrate the course outcomes for the semester. Final exams should be more than a multiple choice type test and should measure true learning and the ability of the student to synthesize, analyze, and other higher level thinking. Semester finals given for identical courses taught by more than one teacher should be the same test.

SEMESTER EXAM EXEMPTIONS

Piper High School believes that final exams are important to the high school experience. Students are shown the value of the course work they complete in a semester, and they learn to study for major tests, a skill they will need in post-high school endeavors. Final examination schedules are determined prior to the beginning of the school year. Allowing students to take exams early is problematic, and experience has shown that students do not perform as well on exams when they take them late. For these reasons, permission to take final examinations on any date other than the assigned date may only be granted by the principal.