

### Woodmen Hills Elementary School - Grading in IMPACT Classes (Specials)

All students receive two grades per quarter for each IMPACT class that they attend (**Music, PE, Art, Technology, Project Based Learning and Library**). The first grade is for “skills” in that subject. Students are evaluated on their level of mastery on course objectives and the Colorado State Standards.

<p><b>Skill grades</b> are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>0 – Not attempting skill (N)</li><li>1 – Not proficient (NP)</li><li>2 – Partially Proficient (PP)</li><li>3 - Proficient (P)</li><li>4 – Advanced (ADV)</li></ul>	<p><b>Effort grades</b> are broken into three scores:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>E = Excellent</li><li>S = Satisfactory</li><li>N = Needs Improvement</li></ul>
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The Falcon Zone grading system based on skill mastery is quite different than the traditional letter grade system where 100% or an “A” is the target grade. A grade of “3” actually indicates that a student is meeting the standards and performing at grade level. A student who receives a “3” is not lacking or falling behind in any way. They are right where they should be. The grade “4” is much less common since it is reserved for those who demonstrate exceptional skills or talents in a given area and those who are performing **above** grade level. While a grade “2” does indicate that a student hasn’t quite mastered the skills, it does not necessarily mean that they are doing something wrong. A “2” could indicate developing skills such as hand-eye coordination, fine/gross motor skills or vocal production in a growing and changing voice. Especially in Kindergarten and First Grade, “2’s” are very common grades and do not indicate that a student is doing something wrong. Effort grades are a great way to determine whether behavior is a factor in your child’s skill level.

Students who participate regularly and demonstrate a positive attitude will score “satisfactory.” This score does not mean that they are doing something wrong or lacking in any way. The grade “excellent” is reserved for those who have truly gone above and beyond expectations in a given class. Only the grade “needs Improvement” indicates that behavior, attitude, or lack of participation is a factor in your child’s ability to learn the material.

IMPACT classes focus on and evaluate different skills each quarter. This means that grades can vary from quarter to quarter and shouldn’t be considered to be “going up” or “going down.” For example, in the quarter in which a music student does their annual performance, most evaluations are based on singing and movement in preparation for that program. The next quarter, evaluations might focus on reading and writing music notes. In Art class, one quarter might focus on two-dimensional art like drawing and painting and the next quarter might focus on three-dimensional pieces. Since students all have different strengths and weaknesses they may perform better on some areas of the curriculum than others. A student who gets a “3” the first quarter and a “2” the second quarter is not falling behind. They are just working on a different skill set during that part of the year.

We hope this helps you to make sense of your child’s grades in IMPACT classes. Our use of standards-based grading will allow our grades to align better with the type of grading used in other subjects and grade levels across the Falcon Zone. Please ask if you need further clarification.