

Lake Wales High School

MASTERY LEARNING FAQ

What is Mastery Learning?

Mastery Learning is an instructional approach that puts the focus on learning outcomes. It is based on the belief that all students can learn essential knowledge and skills. This gives students another chance to master content through retakes on qualifying assessments.

What does Mastery Learning look like at LWHS?

Students have the opportunity to show mastery on qualifying assessments by deepening their understanding of the content. This system ensures students are advancing through gaining the skills they need and prevents failure by providing interventions and support for success. In the Schoology grade book, items eligible for a retake will be identified with an (ML) at the beginning of the assessment title. We define mastery as 75% on an assessment. Students scoring below this benchmark are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity.

What is the advantage of studying and making the grade on the first attempt?

If a student earns between an 85 and a 94 on a qualifying assessment on the first attempt only, they will receive a 95 in the grade book. (This policy differs for IB junior and senior level courses. Please refer to the course syllabus for specifics.)

- In order for this to apply, a student must be in attendance the day of the assessment. (Only students with upcoming school-based absences will be allowed to reschedule their assessment prior to their absence.)

"I'm not throwing away my shot!" -Hamilton

What are the grading details?

Grades will be entered into two categories: Assessments, which are worth 60% of a student's grade and Learning Opportunities, which are worth 40%. This breakdown keeps the focus on learning rather than completion of assignments. One retake is allowed for qualifying assessments within two weeks of it being posted to the grade book. Teachers may require additional prep work, or they may require that prep work is complete, before a retake is allowed. All retakes must be completed within the nine-week period.

How does this work with state required testing?

Because Mastery Learning focuses on state standards, students are preparing for state tests during every lesson. When grades reflect the students' progress towards mastering the state standards, student scores on tests improve. Here at LWHS, we have test data to support this premise. Our state test scores improved after just one year of implementing Mastery Learning.

- One retake per test.
- Retakes must happen within 2 weeks of grade being posted.
- Retakes will close at the end of the nine-weeks.
- Students must take advantage of Learning Opportunities to be eligible for retakes (homework, prep work, tutoring sessions, etc.)
- Grade books have two overarching categories: Assessment 60% & Learning Opportunities: 40%
- Assessments that students are able to retake will have the identifier (ML) in the title in the grade book
- In cases of academic dishonesty, students are ineligible for retakes.
- Mastery learning is a privilege and repetitive abuse of the system could result in losing this opportunity.

At LWHS, we believe Mastery Learning is the best model for our students. It supports our belief that all students can learn and achieve. Teachers are working very hard on your behalf: your attitude matters.