

# North Tonawanda City School District

## *North Tonawanda Middle School*

455 Meadow Drive ♦ North Tonawanda NY 14120 ♦ (716) 807-3700

Gregory Woytila  
**Superintendent**

Joshua Janese  
**Principal**  
Scott Mueller  
**Assistant Principal**

Dear 7-12 Lumberjack Family,

As we completed the 7th week of school last week, the building level administration at both the middle school and high school want to bring a grade calculation change to your attention. This school year, both buildings are developing 10-week benchmark assessments that will better track the academic progress of our students. These benchmark assessments are called Common Formative Assessments (CFAs) and are commonly developed by teams of teachers who provide instruction in specific courses offered at both buildings. Every student taking a given course will complete a CFA. These CFA results will then be reviewed by the same team of teachers who designed the assessment to “map” areas of success and improvement. The administrative teams at both the middle school and high school are hopeful that with the administration of CFAs, we can better meet the needs of our students in a timelier manner.

Historically, students would take final exams each year in June which would count as 20% of a student’s total grade calculation. Feedback from students, families, and instructional leaders found this experience to be a stressful one for students as a large percentage of their final course grade was derived from performance on a singular day. Additionally, teachers were looking for opportunities to collaborate with colleagues throughout the year to share successful instructional strategies to improve academic performance for all. We believe the introduction of CFAs achieves both of these objectives.

With the utilization of CFAs, we will calculate each quarterly CFA as 5% per marking period for a total grade calculation of 20%. These CFA quarterly totals will still encompass a student’s final exam score as well.

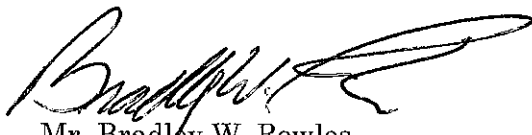
- Marking Period 1 CFA = 5%
- Marking Period 2/Midterm CFA: 5%
- Marking Period 3 CFA = 5%
- Marking Period 4/Final Exam/Regents Exam = 5%

Total CFA % = 20% of a student's total final grade calculation.

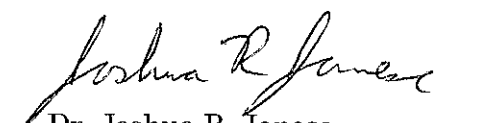
The formula used to calculate final course grades by your child’s teacher(s) will be:

- Marking Period 1 average grade = 20% (ex: 80%)
- Marking Period 2 average grade = 20% (ex: 85%)
- Marking Period 3 average grade = 20% (ex: 90%)
- Marking Period 4 average grade = 20% (ex: 90%)
- Total CFA average grade = 20% (ex: 80%)
- Final course average for the example above would be an 85% final course average

As we roll out our new Common Formative Assessment program at the Meadow Secondary Campus, please do not hesitate to contact each building’s Main Office (NTHS: 716-807-3600 NTMS: 716 807-3700) with any questions or concerns.



Mr. Bradley W. Rowles  
High School Building Principal



Dr. Joshua R. Janese  
Middle School Building Principal