

World Language Department Grading Categories & Explanation

Gradebook Category	Example Activities
30% Interpretive Communication <i>(understanding written texts and audio sources)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reading, listening, and viewing tasks
30% Interpersonal Communication <i>(two-way communication)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Spontaneous conversations with teacher, partner, or group• Responding to questions without a script• Debates• Replying to emails, posts, texts, and other two-way messages
30% Presentational Communication <i>(one-way communication)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Writing and speaking prompts• Recorded, filmed, or rehearsed presentations
10% Teacher Discretion <i>(will be specified or divided in the course syllabus)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Participation rubric• Homework• Classwork

Purpose:

- Aligns to ACTFL World-Readiness Standards.
- Focuses on the ability to communicate in written and spoken form through real-world tasks rather than the memorization of single words and verb forms in order to develop well-rounded language students.
- Allows students to reflect on their progress in each mode of communication rather than their score in “tests” or “projects.”
- Prepares for AP exams, college courses, and authentic language use.
- Provides consistency among all teachers of the same course.

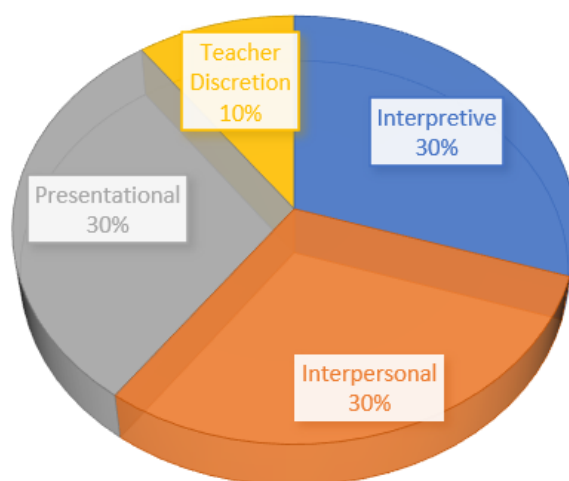
Notes:

- Grammar, vocabulary, and mechanics are assessed, but primarily in the context of performance-based activities.
- See Page 2 of this document for additional details on “Calculating Grades in the Sapphire Gradebook.”

Calculating Grades in the Sapphire Gradebook

Purpose: See “World Language Department Grading Categories & Explanation.”

Calculation: The marking period grade is not calculated by adding the total points. Assignments are grouped into categories, and each category is a percentage of the course grade. The total score of all assignments in a category will comprise the category's percentage of the course grade.



Example:

Assignment	Category	Score
Menu Questionnaire	Interpretive	8/8
Partner Conversation	Interpersonal	16/20
Written Autobiography	Presentational	9/10
Participation Rubric	Teacher Discretion	5/5

Total Points Calculation → $38/43 = 88\%$

Categories Calculation → $Interpretive\ 100 \times 30\% + Interpersonal\ 80 \times 30\% + Presentational\ 90 \times 30\% + Teacher\ Discretion\ 100 \times 10\% = 91\%$

Notes:

- The first few grades in the marking period will have a seemingly large effect on the marking period grade until each category is populated.
- A good score could cause your marking period grade to go down or vice versa. For example, if your marking period average is a 90%, and you earn a 95% on a presentational assignment, the effect on the marking period grade depends on whether the 95% is higher or lower than your grade in that category. Focus on improving each skill category rather than just the overall numbers.