ADA MERRITT K-8 CENTER
MIDDLE YEARS PROGRAMME
ASSESSMENT POLICY

Ada Merritt K-8 Center recognizes that teaching, learning, and assessment are tightly connected. Accomplished teachers ground their instructional decisions in their knowledge of students as people and as learners, as well as in their knowledge of the subject they teach. They recognize that students have different learning styles and diverse cultural backgrounds. To address this variety of needs, assessment at Ada Merritt K-8 Center takes many forms.

How do we assess?

- As outlined by the International Baccalaureate, assessment in the Middle Years Programme is criterion-related. Students are regularly assessed through formative as well as summative assessment tasks including the minimum prescribed tasks in each subject. Their performance is evaluated using criteria related to the IB objectives. Prior to completing a task, students receive a rubric that outlines what they will need to do in order to demonstrate mastery of the targeted objectives. Humanities and Language B teachers are using the interim criteria included in the new subject guides. Since Ada Merritt is implementing a three-year program, other subject teachers are using modified criteria aligned to the Years 1 and 3 Interim Objectives. When assigning a task, teachers provide their students with a rubric outlining the criteria that will be assessed. The rubrics reflect IB criteria with modified descriptors and/or task-specific descriptors.

- As a Miami-Dade County public school, Ada Merritt K-8 Center must follow the assessment guidelines set by the district as well as the MYP requirements. Students are evaluated in a variety of ways:

  - Self-reflection
  - Online surveys
  - Peer evaluation
  - Portfolios
  - Development Workbooks and Process Journals
  - Projects
  - Presentations (oral and visual)
  - Performances
  - Competitions: spelling and geography bees, science fairs, Invention Convention, oratorical contest, Cervantes essay competition in Spanish, visual arts submissions, Miami Dade County Youth Fair and Exhibition
  - Standardized tests: Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test(FCAT) every year and District Assessments in Language A, Mathematics and Science: pre- and posttests and quarterly interim assessments
  - Homework
  - Quizzes and tests.

When do we assess?

- Formative assessment is ongoing throughout the year.
- State and district mandated assessments occur at times prescribed for all public schools in the region.
- All units of study include a summative assessment at the end of the unit.

What do we assess?

All subject objectives are assessed during the course of the year. Teachers are asked to provide at least two judgments for each criterion in their subject. This year, they have started using **Managebac**, an online program that allows them to develop their units of study and enter grades for each assigned task.

When and how do we report on assessment?

- Teachers record grades, assignments, and comments in an electronic grade book, which may be viewed by students and their parents at any time. MYP-generated grades are also converted into Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) grades and entered in the electronic grade book.
- A Miami-Dade County Public Schools Interim Progress Report and a Student Grade Report are issued once in each nine week period.
- IB MYP reporting: teachers are now using **Managebac** to record IB assessment for their students.
    - They are required to provide a minimum of two grades per criterion
    - An IB Record of Achievement is issued at the end of the year
- Individual student/parent team conferences are scheduled upon parental or teacher request

Other Assessment Considerations

- Late work is graded at the teacher's discretion
- Accommodations are made during testing for students with special requirements

Assessment Policy Review

The Ada Merritt K-8 Center Assessment Policy is reviewed yearly to reflect any changes in our grading and grade reporting practices.