



# Mt. Ararat Middle School

## Protocol for Student Recognition

### **RATIONALE:**

- Our school is proficiency-based and student centered; the focus is on learning as an ongoing process, not merely a snapshot in time.
- The mission of our school fosters learning from mistakes; this is rooted in the belief in a growth mindset where failure is seen as a vital component of the learning process; our recognition system should support that, not undermine it.
- A component of the MSAD 75 Grading Philosophy is that grades reflect proficiency at a given point in time, rather than an average of scores. In a proficiency based system, we cannot expect all students to be in the same place academically at the same time. As a school, we have various benchmarks for each student, depending on where they are at academically. Therefore, we cannot base our recognition on learning goal scores because it undermines these tenets of proficiency-based learning.
- The mission of our school also fosters clear expectations. Our clearest expectation for all students is our School Wide Code of Cooperation. When students are Focused, Respectful, and Responsible, these “Work Habits” are correlated to successful academic performance.
- Past Practice (Prior to 2016)
  - High Honor Roll = all A’s with 3’s & 4’s on all work habits for all classes
  - Honor Roll = A’s and B’s with 3’s & 4’s on all work habits for all classes
  - A student would not earn Honor Roll (no matter what they have for grades) if they earned even one 2 or 1

### **PROTOCOL**

- Our student recognition will consist of an “Honor Roll” (one tier), published at the end of each quarter.
- The “Honor Roll” will be based on Work Habits scores (4, 3, 2, 1) in Empower from that quarter.

- **To qualify for the “Honor Roll” at the end of the quarter, students must have 95% of their Work Habits scores as 3’s & 4’s with no 1’s.**
- **To qualify for the “High Honor Roll” at the end of the quarter, students must have 95% of their Work Habits scores as 4’s with no 2’s.**
- We will continue to have regular Student Recognition programs (i.e. assemblies) that involve highlighting a variety of behaviors, talents, and achievements.

### **FAQ’s**

*Why is the school using work habits instead of academic performance to establish inclusion on the honor roll?*

In a student-centered, proficiency-based system:

- There is a direct and positive correlation between work habits and academic performance on learning goals
- Our protocol needs to reinforce, not undermine our school mission:
  - Supporting kids where they are currently at
  - Growth Mindset
  - Rewarding the soft skills of academic success
- Time is not a factor for achievement. Students make progress, but at different rates
- Students are individuals, and their learning is individual
- Students will learn perseverance and grit in their learning
- Work habits honor what students can do to be successful in any kind of learning

*Why is the “cut off” 95%?*

For each student, 95% equals one “2” (Honor Roll) or one “3” (High Honor Roll) score on work habits. Because we foster a growth mindset, we understand that an occasional mistakes happen and are part of learning.