

Great Lakes Secondary School

Demonstration of Learning

Our plan to improve student achievement includes developing a culture of high expectations with support for students. This is based on our belief that all students can learn, progress, and achieve with time and support. Demonstration of Learning is a program that is supported by research and evidenced in experience.

For grade nine applied and academic courses and grade ten applied courses, students who demonstrate their learning by meeting the criteria below will be given the option of not writing the final exam, in which case their culminating activity will be worth 30% of the final mark. Students will be notified on the second last day of class whether they have demonstrated their learning.

Criteria:

- applied courses: achievement of a minimum of 75% on the term and culminating activity
- academic courses: achievement of a minimum of 80% on the term work and culminating activity
- submission of all major assignments
- accumulation of no more than nine absences (10% of the course) and nine lates. Absences include absences for any reason except for school activities.
- professional judgment of the teacher

Rationale:

- Students that have demonstrated their learning by meeting the above criteria have sufficiently met the overall expectations of the course. It is not necessary for students to re-demonstrate their knowledge and skills again on a final exam.
- Achieving at least a 75% (applied) or 80% (academic) is a strong predictor of success in the higher grades. Many students who simply pass a grade nine or ten course with a mark in the low 50s are at a significant risk of not graduating from high school.
- The option of not writing the final exam gives students a strong incentive to attend class regularly and complete their work.
- Demonstration of learning has resulted in a greater proportion of students passing and achieving at higher levels.