## A.3.1 Mastery and Promotion

**Course Letter Grades:**

As per ARS 15-521, teachers will make the determination to promote or retain students in 6th, 7th and 8th grade based on their classwork, post test scores, growth and character. In order to be successful in the Expeditionary Learning model, students need to demonstrate their ability to master the Arizona State and Common Core standards at all grade levels. Students at Copper Point Junior High School will need to demonstrate mastery in order to move forward in the program. Criteria for Mastery include:

- passing formative and summative assessments in each class,
- completing 20 community service hours
- all required coursework as assigned and evaluated by the teachers,
- passing Promotion Panel at the eighth grade level.

Letter Grades in the courses will be awarded based on the following percentages:

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| A | 90-100% |
| B | 80-89% |
| C | 70-79% |
| D | 60-69% |
| F | 59% and below |

Students who receive a letter grade in the shaded area, D or F, will be placed on Academic Remediation. Students will be required to attend tutoring to attain mastery of the standards they have not yet achieved. This remediation is described in full in the Program of Instruction and is accounted for in the PMP. Students who receive a D or an F in a course will receive a grade of "Incomplete", thereby not receiving credit for the course, until remediation is completed. If a student does not complete the required remediation or the remediation does not demonstrate mastery of the standard, the student will fail the course and be required to retake it before moving to the next grade level.

Post Tests: Post Tests will be used to evaluate each student and ensure mastery. Students who do not demonstrate mastery on their post tests will be required to attend tutoring until mastery is met. Students who do not meet the mastery will be unable to promote to the next grade level. This process holds students accountable for their learning and ensures that students who are not ready to go to the next level are not being passed through without the proper skills to be successful. Counseling will be provided at all grade levels to determine if students are honing and maintaining the skills necessary to be successful in the high school grade levels. With that in mind, students who are falling below the standards but wish to remain in the program must demonstrate through their character that they are willing to persevere and work hard to achieve the standard. This means coming to scheduled tutoring on Fridays.

**Character Grades:**

Students at Copper Point Junior High School will have a character grade that is used for informative purpose on behavior, effort and will be utilized in feed back for parent/teacher conferences and will be used to determine eligibility for after school activities. Character grades are determined by the teacher and staff at Copper Point Junior High School and are assigned per course. Community members will also give students character grades as students complete their community service. These will be taken into account by the Crew teacher. Community Service Grades are assigned as follows:

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| Excellent (E) | Student regularly and consistently goes above and beyond to demonstrate |

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| | Discipline, Integrity, Perseverance, Respect and Responsibility |
| Satisfactory (S) | Student successfully demonstrates the desired character traits of Discipline, Integrity, Perseverance, Respect and Responsibility |
| Unsatisfactory (U) | Student has difficulties consistently demonstrating one or all of the desired character traits of Discipline, Integrity, Perseverance, Respect and Responsibility |
| Falls Far Below (F) | Student rarely demonstrates Discipline, Integrity, Perseverance, Respect and Responsibility and regularly needs redirection. |

Students who receive a "U" or "F" in character will ineligible to participate in extracurricular activities, such as sport and clubs. At this point, students will be given a character conference to discuss deficiencies in character and develop a plan to improve their character grade. Once "Character Remediation" has been completed, students will have their eligibility reinstated for extracurricular activities. Students who consistently are receiving "F"s in character will be placed on Behavior Contracts and receive a Behavior Modification plan. Consequences will be discussed in a counseling meeting with the student, parent, teacher and administration. Students who consistently receive excellent scores in their character grades will receive positive reinforcement in the form of various programs.

**Awarding Promotion:**

The process for awarding promotion will be based on content mastery. Teachers will utilize summative and formative assessments to determine if students are mastering content. Standardized post-tests will be used at all levels to determine whether or not students have developed the skills necessary for promotion. This post-test (final exam) is worth 20% of their overall grade. This test will be linked with the standards and will demonstrate specific areas in which mastery has been attained. Likewise, it will allow teachers to evaluate the overall growth of the student. This, in addition to coursework and projects, at the discretion of the teacher, will determine whether or not the students will progress to the next grade level.

A Promotion Panel will take place at eighth grade. This intense display of student work will occur before a panel comprised of the classroom teacher, administration, other staff and community members. Students will present their portfolios and analyze and interpret their content grades, citing evidence from their personal school work. The panel will complete a rubric that will provide feedback to the teacher, student and parents. This feedback will not determine the Promotion Panel grade, but will celebrate student learning and accomplishments over the past year. The purpose of an unbiased panel is to provide students with experience in presenting and interviewing before a panel. The teacher, who also sits on the panel, will utilize the feedback from the panel to inform the rubric and assign a Promotion Panel grade that is factored into the final course grade.

The student must receive credit in all courses at a "C" grade or better in order to be promoted to the next grade level. Course grades are determined based on coursework, post tests and, in 8$^{th}$ grade, Promotion Panel grades. If, based on these criteria, a teacher decides to retain a student, a written explanation that cites student's deficiencies will be provided to the student and parents.