



Zwaanswyk High School's Merit System

The Merit System at Zwaanswyk High School seeks to establish and implement **positive behaviours** in our learners, as a means of encouraging appropriate behaviour in and out of class.

The importance of a well-functioning Merit System is to give rise to learners being able to **self-regulate their own behaviours** to allow them to better assimilate into the **ethos** of our school.

Learners who receive merits are publically acknowledged in the school's **Learner Recognition Assemblies** to celebrate and to reinforce a culture of good behaviour, thus instilling pride in Zwaanswyk High School.

Zwaanswyk High School's Merit System acknowledges positive behaviours practiced by learners within the pillars of the school.

The school's four pillars are:

- Academics,
- Discipline,
- Service, and
- Extra-mural Involvement.

These pillars are further verified by the learner heads of the school (the Representative Council of Learners' Executive Members) and their portfolios. This is done to supplement the staff's efforts to award merits to our learners so that the culture of our school is one in which positive discipline is instilled.

Learners may earn merits for the following behaviours:

1. Academic Merits

Academic Merits seek to instill in our learners the values of DEDICATION, COMMITMENT and GROWTH by focusing on academic achievement and incentivising learners to surpass their personal academic targets.

A learner may earn an Academic Merit for any of the following achievements:

1. Achieving **70%** (or more) for an assessment (SBA) = **1 Merit**
2. Improving by **10%** in a consecutive term = **1 Merit**
3. Having produced the highest mark in the class for a particular SBA = **1 Merit**

(These may not apply to class tests or assessments that can be completed at home).

2. Positive Discipline Merits

Positive Discipline Merits seek to instill in our learners the values of CO-OPERATION and GROWTH.

A learner may earn a Positive Discipline Merit for any of the following achievements:

1. Earning zero (0) demerits in a term = **3 Merits per term**
2. Earning a Brand Ambassador Award = **2 Merits** (each time)
3. Positively upholding the ZWHS brand through their behaviour and conduct while representing the school = **1 Merit**

3. Service (outreach) Merits

Service (outreach) Merits seek to instill in our learners the values of HUMILITY, EMPATHY and LOVE for one another.

A learner may earn a Service (outreach) Merit for displaying the following behaviour:

1. Contributing to a service / outreach initiative = **2 Merits**

4. Extra-Mural Merits

Extra-Mural Merits seek to instill in our learners the values of UBUNTU, COMMITMENT and BALANCE. At Zwaanswyk High School, learners are encouraged to participate in a Sport or Cultural activity as part of the school's extra-mural programme.

A learner may earn an Extra-Mural Merit for any of the following achievements:

4.1 SPORT:

1. Being part of the winning side in a match or tournament = **1 Merit**
2. Being acknowledged as Player of the Match = **1 Merit**
3. Showing good sportsmanship = **1 Merit**
4. 100% attendance for the Term = **1 Merit**

Note: Learners who are acknowledged as being Player of the Match will receive a certificate in the weekly assemblies after the match has taken place. The certificate will be drawn up by the Merit Team.

4.2 CULTURE:

1. Participating in a cultural competition = **3 Merits**
2. Earning Honours at an Eisteddfod = **3 Merits**
3. Receiving special awards at competitions = **3 Merits**
4. 100% attendance for the Term = **1 Merit**

Additions:

Learners who have accumulated the most merits for the Term per Grade will receive a certificate and meal voucher (McDonalds R50 voucher).

At the end of the year, learners who have accumulated the most merits for the year, per grade, will receive a certificate and **5 points** added to their House's score.
