

4th Marking Period and Final Grades Procedures for Extended School Closure Middle and High School – West Chester Area School District

Teachers have assigned student grades to close out the 3rd Marking Period, the ending of which was extended to April 7. As we begin the 4th marking period in Emergency Remote Learning, we will be moving to a Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (Pass/Fail) system for 4th marking period grades. Many school districts and universities around the nation have made this choice. It's challenging to assign grades at this time, as each student's family situation and ability to complete work during this closure varies widely.

- Teachers should not give zeros or penalize for lateness on assignments issued during the 3rd marking period closure (March 16- April 7). Students should make an attempt to complete the work, if possible.
- During the 4th marking period, teachers will **still record numerical grades** in their gradebooks and in PowerSchool, and these will be shared with students and families. However, when final 4th marking period grades are tallied, students will earn either Satisfactory (60 and above) or Unsatisfactory (59 and below).
- Final grades for each course will *not include the fourth marking period*. They will be determined as the numerical average of the grades for marking periods 1-3.
- Students who would prefer to receive numerical grades for the 4th marking period will be able to submit an "opt into grading form" by June 15 (principals will make this available.) Final averages for students who select this option will be based on the average numerical grades for all marking periods.
- Teachers will provide supplemental instruction during the 4th marking period for students who may have not been on pace to pass the year prior to the closure. This may include opportunities to re-assess students on work from a prior marking period.
- For high school students, GPA will be calculated based on the first three marking periods, unless they complete the "opt into grading form."
- The Pennsylvania Department of Education has directed that "no student should be restricted from completing their high school graduation requirements or pursuit of a post-secondary pathway due to the pandemic of 2020." Therefore, even students who receive an Unsatisfactory will not be held back from graduation or from advancing to the next grade solely based on their 4th marking period performance.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact your principal.