

April 9, 2020

Greetings Parents and Guardians,

As we shift our focus to advancing the curriculum through remote instruction, we are in the process of addressing procedures as it relates to graduation requirements for our seniors, a new grading policy reflecting the current stay-at-home orders, and the earning of credits for students now that we have moved into the final quarter grading period. The high school presents special challenges that are not encountered at the elementary and middle school levels because the high school has many structures dependent upon grades, credits, quality points, etc. We are also working on plans to address the status of other important school functions, such as graduation, that will be rolled out in the upcoming weeks.

Therefore, we are carefully working on a plan that moves the curriculum forward while making every effort to deliver remote learning options in an equitable manner. To support this, we are looking into some form of a "Pass/Incomplete" system of grading, and as a result, must provide documentation to award any credits using this type of system. This would allow for students and families who are better equipped to engage in the online learning platform to move along in completing the Essential Learning Targets to earn course credit. Additionally, we also will need to find options to provide those families and students who may struggle or may not be able to engage in the online learning platform an opportunity to earn the credit in the future.

With that said, learning cannot necessarily be deemed "optional" in the same sense as is the case with the elementary and middle school levels, where course credit is not necessarily a prerequisite for grade advancement. We need to get feedback from our instructional staff on a few options we are considering before we finalize plans and implement a grading system for the second semester of this school year. Moving forward, a critical component for awarding course completion credit will be the way in which all families are able to verify the work your child(ren) has(have) completed, which will accompany teacher feedback, in order to establish a level of proficiency.

We know this public health emergency has brought unprecedented changes not just to teaching and learning, but to many other aspects of daily life. We truly appreciate your continued support as the staff works through the conversion to remote learning and delivery of the most essential learning targets. Again, a sincere thank you and appreciation to all students, families, and staff for your commitment to make learning the best possible under these circumstances. I will continue to communicate changes and other considerations as they develop, and as always, please reach out if you have questions and concerns.

Sincerely,

Michael Nicksic  
Principal