

Thomaston-Upson Schools
2019-20 End of Year Information for TU Stakeholders
GRADES 9-12



The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly impacted the lives of everyone in our community and the nation at-large. During these unprecedented times, we have been in constant communication with students, parents, and teachers to meet the needs of everyone who contributes to making Upson-Lee High School a remarkable school community. For the remainder of the 2019 - 2020 school year, teaching and learning will continue to occur primarily through Google Classroom with numerous digital platforms that students had been engaged in prior to the school closure. We understand we live in a rural community and not everyone has the same degree of access to the internet and technology necessary to utilize digital platforms. We have developed the following guidance for grading for everyone to have a shared understanding of how student grades will be calculated due to the school closure. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we continue to meet the needs of our students and families during these turbulent times. Please stay healthy, stay safe, and continue to take special care of those closest to you.

EXPECTATIONS OF TEACHERS

- Teachers will contribute to the instructional needs of students through various educational opportunities (i.e. Google classrooms, enrichment/remediation activities, etc.).
- Teachers will provide feedback through google classroom, emails, texts, Remind, etc.
- Teachers will be available for virtual “office hours” each day from 9-10 AM.

EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENTS AND FAMILIES

- Stay in frequent contact with your child’s teacher. Please don’t hesitate to ask questions when you or your child need help. (Friendly reminder: They may not be in their regular classroom, but our teachers are definitely still available to help.)
- Establish a routine that includes setting learning goals for the day. Be consistent in your daily schedule while giving yourself and your child the grace to be flexible, when necessary.
- Students and families should make reasonable attempts to access Google Classrooms (where applicable).

DIGITAL LEARNING GRADING PRACTICES

- Students will have the opportunity to improve their final grade until May 1, 2020.
- Work submitted after March 13th may be used for grades or to measure what students know. Any work submitted will only have a positive impact on a student’s grade(s).
- Teachers will contact parents and students to provide the opportunity for students to complete missing assignments or replace specific failing assignments to benefit their overall grade.

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- No zeros can be posted for work assigned during the school closure effective March 13 through May 1, 2020.
 - Any student who was on track to graduate on Friday, March 13, 2020, will be allowed to receive credit for all courses for which they were enrolled on or before March 13th.
 - If a student was failing a course on Friday, March 13, 2020, prior to the school closure, the student will be contacted by their school counselor or teacher to provide the student the necessary assignments to improve their grade to satisfy graduation requirements.

GRADING TIMELINE

- Seniors will continue to complete assignments via distance learning until April 30, 2020. Seniors' grades will be finalized and posted in Infinite Campus by May 5, 2020. If a senior is not meeting graduation requirements on May 5, 2020, the senior will be notified of the necessary coursework and assignments to be completed prior to May 22, 2020, to participate in graduation ceremonies. Failure to meet these requirements by graduation makes a senior ineligible to participate in the graduation ceremonies.
- If a senior is unable to demonstrate mastery and achieve a grade of 70 or higher prior to May 22, 2020, the student will receive a grade of incomplete and be afforded the opportunity to demonstrate proficiency through summer opportunities and be considered a summer graduate.
- Underclassmen will continue to complete assignments via distance learning until May 1, 2020. Underclassmen grades will be finalized and posted in Infinite Campus by May 22, 2020. If an underclassman is unable to demonstrate mastery and achieve a grade of 70 or higher by May 22, 2020, the student will receive a grade of incomplete and be afforded the opportunity to demonstrate proficiency through summer opportunities. The student must demonstrate proficiency by December 18, 2020. In the event this does not happen, a student will receive his/her grade as calculated on December 18, 2020.
- May 1st through May 20th will be designated time for make-up work, credit repair, and return of digital equipment to the school system.

TRANSCRIPTS

ULHS is in the process of making transcripts accessible online via Parchment: Digital Credential Service. Parchment will allow students to send transcripts electronically to colleges and universities, as well as allow students to request a transcript for personal use. We will have more information coming next week.

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TESTING & ACCOUNTABILITY

- Advanced Placement tests will be administered under the revised rules and guidelines provided by the College Board. If you have questions, Mr. Matthew Bentley can provide assistance via email at mbentley@upson.k12.ga.us.
 - End of Pathway Assessments (EOPA) will not be administered this school year. If you have questions, Mr. Ricky English can provide assistance via email at renglish@upson.k12.ga.us.
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- Georgia Milestone End of Course (EOC) will not be administered this spring. The student's final average will not include the 20% category weight for EOCs in a student's class average. The student's final grade in the course will reflect their grade prior to March 13, 2020, and the digital learning period.

SENIOR ACTIVITIES, HONORS, AND RECOGNITIONS

With Governor Kemp's announcement that all Georgia public schools will be closed for the remainder of the school year and Georgia's current shelter-in-place, we are actively evaluating all options related to the graduation ceremony. We are communicating with parents and students to find meaningful ways to recognize our seniors if a ceremony cannot be held at Matthews Field. We are exploring the safest methods for students to retrieve their cap, gown, and stole in preparation for graduation. For seniors who have not ordered their cap and gown, the cap and gown can be ordered from www.balfourcentral.com. We understand the significance of graduation, and once graduation ceremony decisions have been finalized, we will communicate the details as soon as possible.

UPSON-LEE LEARNING ACADEMY, ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL, AND ODYSSEYWARE

- Students will be provided the same opportunities as students at Upson-Lee High School with respect to improving their grades following the same guidelines and procedures.
 - Students are able to continue completing assignments and units in Odysseyware during the school closure. Students will work with their teachers directly to continue making progress towards course completion utilizing the Odysseyware software program.
 - Upson-Lee Learning Academy and Alternative School families with questions should contact Principal Faye Williams via email at fwilliams@upson.k12.ga.us.
 - Families with questions regarding credit repair and credit recovery through Odysseyware should contact Mr. Ricky English via email at renghish@upson.k12.ga.us.
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