

Assistant Superintendent's Update April 22, 2020

Dear Island Park Families,

At the Tuesday, April 21, 2020 Board of Education meeting, "Emergency Grading Procedures" were presented to the Board for approval and public comment. Below, is our outline of grading practices for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. In addition, attached please see our presentation on Continuity of Learning: Phase II and Grading. More details on this will be forthcoming.

The primary goal of the District's grading practices is to communicate progress that is representative of each student's achievement and work habits/effort. It is intended to be helpful to parents, and supportive of students. Based upon the extended school closure, students' grades will not be penalized by the loss of in-class learning days; nor will they be inflated because of it. As a result, grading by teachers of students working remotely from home through distance learning, will take into consideration several factors:

- There is an adjustment period for students and teachers as they transition to distance learning.
- Students and families may be subject to illness, hospital stays, temporary housing, etc. that preclude students from doing and/or completing work.
- Unless students are provided devices on an individual basis, there will be challenges in households to schedule time for home device usage and this will create inequitable learning opportunities among students.
- Materials for project-based learning may not be available to students and families who are self-isolating.

Francis X. Hegarty Trimester 3 Grading

Based upon the length of the school closure, the District recognizes that there are many factors that hinder a teacher(s) ability to accurately report mastery of standards at the elementary level. Therefore, the report card will remain blank in the standards-based boxes that typically indicate a 1-4 level. Each student will receive comments regarding participation in online instruction and more individualized feedback regarding learning via the narrative comments. Work Habits/Effort for online instruction will be calculated and recorded as usual. It is important to note that based upon the District's "do no harm" grading philosophy these grades will not be used to deny any student entrance to the Discovery program.

Lincoln Orens Middle School Quarter 4 Grading

As with the elementary grading, assessing student achievement at the middle school level, will be based upon the District's "do no harm" philosophy. Students can "earn" a grade for achievement that is reflective of their work throughout the distance learning period as they would during any other time. However, if the work during the distance learning period results in a total grade for that period that is lower than all other in-school periods previously rendered, it

will be given a grade of NM (No Mark). Comments by the teacher to the parent will explain the NM grade. NMs, however, will not be averaged into the final grade. Work Habits/Effort grades, however, will be calculated and recorded as usual. It is important to note that based upon the District's "do no harm" grading philosophy these grades will not be used to deny any student entrance to the Discovery program, Regents classes, Honor Roll, High Honor Roll, or National Junior Honor Society.

Under Governor Cuomo's Executive Order, schools are closed through May 15, 2020. Given the current set of circumstances, there is the potential that the school closure will be extended. Emergency Grading Practices will remain in effect whether or not we return to our school buildings, or if we continue with our distance learning plan. In the meanwhile, it is important that you continue to support your child to follow-through with all digital learning assignments. Continued active engagement over the long haul is essential to minimizing learning loss during this period.

Stay safe and healthy!
Fondly,

Vincent Randazzo
Assistant Superintendent