

Westlake High School

Mt. Pleasant Central School District

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Dear Parents and Students,

I hope this update finds you and your family in good health and looking forward to May and the hopeful start of nice weather. We are now two weeks into our transition to the new Continuity of Learning Plan and the move to graded assignments and assessments. In my weekly meetings with all departments, teachers are reporting that students continue to navigate the world of distance learning well and we continue to make adjustments to make sure that the workload is manageable. While the last update outlined how the third and fourth quarters would be combined and what work would be included in the calculation of that combined quarter grade, there are more details that have been finalized over the last 2 weeks. A grading committee has worked with me to think through how to balance the weight of the work from the beginning of the third quarter with that coming from this stage of distance learning. In addition to figuring out this calculation, we also needed to revisit the weight of each quarter in the overall year's course average. In all simulations our guiding principle was to make sure that students who have been working throughout the year and continue to do so through distance learning will be positively impacted by our re-calibration. To that end, the following outlines how the Combined Quarter 3 and 4 grade will be calculated and the overall weight of each of the quarters in calculating the final course average for the year:

The Combined Quarter 3, 4 grade will be comprised from the following:

Graded work from 1/27/2020 - 3/13/2020 = 55% of the total quarter grade

Graded work from 4/13/2020 - until we return to school or end of year = 45%

Work collected from 3/18/2020 - 4/10/2020 will be used to inform teachers' participation grades and can add points to the final quarter average.

The final average calculation for year-long courses that did not have a midterm exam will be comprised of

Quarter 1 = 33%

Quarter 2 = 33%

Combined Quarter 3,4 = 33%

The final average calculation for year-long courses that gave a midterm scores will be comprised of:

Quarter 1 = 30%

Quarter 2 = 30%

Midterm = 10%

Combined Quarter 3,4 = 30%

For second semester courses the grade will be calculated based on the formula listed above for the combined Quarter 3, 4. Additionally, there are some very limited scenarios where a second semester course may be graded as credit/no credit due in part to the nature of the course and the ability to deliver the intended instruction via distance learning, an example of such a course is our 9th grade sculpture class.

Virtual opportunities for students:

Students are reminded to stay connected to their teachers through email, class pages and Google Hangout/Meet sessions. Additionally, many of our clubs and student organizations are up and running and Mr. Amann has started to send out weekly updates on club activities. Both existing and new members are welcome to attend many of these virtual club meetings. It is important to note that there are several virtual opportunities coming up for students including student government elections, virtual college fairs, college essay and resume writing workshops, our career cafe series as well as others. Many of these events are listed in our guidance newsletter and are pushed out to students as well through internal notifications.

End of year events:

Everyone is aware of the number of culminating, celebratory events that occur each year starting in May. We have been discussing ways in which we can honor the work of our students and celebrate with them and you given the current constraints placed on large gatherings. It is expected that in the coming week Governor Cuomo will give schools more direction on what the extent of our closure may look like going forward. This information will be extremely helpful in our planning for these upcoming events. I will have a separate update letter that will detail our options once we know more about the extent of our closure.

SAT and AP exam updates:

As many Juniors may be aware, the College Board has cancelled the June SAT test and will allow students to reschedule to a later test date. The College Board is in the process of adding new test dates in the fall, the first of which was announced for September 26. If you are looking to take this test, please stay connected to the College Board website and register. If you need assistance, please reach out to your counselor.

By now all AP students should be well versed on the changes to the AP exam and the new testing format that will be used. All AP teachers have posted helpful links on their class pages to resources and practice. The College Board has announced that students will be given access to a test simulation site later this week that will allow students to log in and practice the upload process prior to the day of their AP exam. Students will also have the chance to see an actual sample of their specific test format through this simulation site and practice under real time constraints. Once again, AP teachers will be guiding their students through this over the next couple of weeks. Please look for additional information from Mr. DiPaolo as well. Two helpful links for AP students to check on regularly are:

[AP resources](#)
[MyAP login](#)

Yearbook Orders

The WHS 2020 yearbooks are now available online through May 8th for \$125. The link to place your order is below. Any questions, please email Ms. Massi at jmassi@mtplcsd.org.
<https://www.yearbookordercenter.com/index.cfm/job/4387>

I want to thank all of you for the continued support and offers of help during these very strange times. I have had the opportunity to hear from so many students and parents over the past couple of weeks and to “see” almost all of our seniors in our virtual class meeting and it makes me miss the daily interaction that much more. I truly believe that all of our efforts, those of our teachers, students, parents and staff will pay dividends as we re-emerge from this pandemic hopefully in the near future.

Stay well.

Dedicated to excellence,



Keith Schenker