

# Westlake High School

## Mt. Pleasant Central School District

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WHS Distance Learning 2.0  
4/9/2020

Dear Parents and Students,

I hope that everyone is doing well and looking forward to the day that we can return to some normalcy in our lives. The extension of school closures across the state certainly requires us to evolve our distance learning practices across the district. This evolution, especially at the secondary level, must include the move towards teaching new content and concepts and will certainly involve the assessment of student learning. While many teachers over the past two weeks have used a variety of methods to connect with students, as we move into distance learning 2.0, all teachers will be utilizing both asynchronous (pre-recorded, viewed at any time) and synchronous (live, interactive) lessons.

In order to maintain a consistent structure and routine for students and teachers, we will still follow the 2-hour delay schedule (included as attachment) and the A/B day calendar as we had been doing. Students need to follow this daily schedule even more closely, as all teachers will be teaching new content and giving assessments based around that bell schedule. I have asked all teachers to be mindful of the realities of a typical students' schedule; realizing that students are all managing at least 6-8 classes or more. These scheduled lessons will not run longer than 30 minutes, which will allow the remainder of the block for students to ask questions and get feedback on their work. Teachers will continue to post all assignments on Class Pages and it is critical that students continue to check their school email regularly for teacher communications. **It is extremely important for seniors to know that they must stay connected to all of their classes and turn in all work assigned. With the Senior Experience Program obviously in jeopardy of running, seniors are expected to continue to follow their existing schedule in order to earn a final grade for graduation.**

Teachers will continue to assign work, but this work will now be graded according to a universal grading rubric created with input from all the faculty. Any assessments given in any course will also be numerically graded according to this rubric. The intent behind the grading rubric is to provide feedback to students in a holistic way so they can understand where they stand against course standards and skills and we can continue to build students' proficiency and mastery of those

skills in all subject areas. Teachers will be making modifications to the types of assessments used in light of the realities of distance learning. It is critical that students are submitting their original work and not plagiarizing any assignment or assessment. If this occurs, teachers will still be enforcing their class and school penalties for plagiarized work. The grading rubric is included below so that all students and parents are aware of the criteria for each rating and numeric grade range.

RATING	CRITERIA	NUMERIC GRADE RANGE
<b>Mastery</b>	Exceeded assessment/assignment expectations, completed all tasks embedded in assessment/ assignment, mastered skills and standards being assessed	<b>95-100</b>
<b>Proficient</b>	Met all assessment/ assignment expectations, completed most tasks embedded in assessment/ assignment, demonstrates proficient attainment of skills and standards being assessed	<b>85-90</b>
<b>Developing</b>	Approaching proficiency in assessment/ assignment expectations with some errors present, completed some tasks assigned, approaching grade level proficiency with regard to skills and standards being assessed, but some areas need further development.	<b>75-80</b>
<b>Emerging</b>	Assessment/assignments attempted but many errors present, many tasks left incomplete, demonstrates significant weaknesses with regard to skills and standards being assessed	<b>65-70</b>
<b>No progress</b>	Assessments/assignments not attempted, all tasks left incomplete or not attempted, inability to assess growth in skills and standards due to lack of work completed or late work.	<b>55</b>

There have been many questions raised about grades, quarter grades and transcript impact. This grading rubric provides every opportunity for students to demonstrate their best work and allows teachers the ability to look at student work not from the point of view of what is right and what is wrong, but whether the student has completed all tasks and demonstrated success against agreed upon skills and standards embedded in the course. Students, if they need help or guidance with an assignment, are encouraged to engage in email communication with their teachers before submitting work.

**3rd and 4th Quarter Grades:**

The faculty, Mr. Amann and I have collectively discussed the question of what will come of 3rd and 4th quarter grades. A combined 3rd and 4th quarter grade will be issued at the close of the school year for all courses. This “super quarter” will be comprised of the following:

- All grades that were earned by students from the start of Quarter 3 prior to the start of distance learning. (January 27 - March 13)
- A participation grade assigned to all work collected during the time frame of 3/18-4/10 and marked as “P” or “INC”.
- All graded assessments and assignments collected under the new guidance from this document. (April 13 until we return to school or the end of the year).

The percentage weight of each of our quarters will have to be recalibrated to take into account this change. The final recalibration, given the cancellation of Regent exams and potential changes to final exams, will be communicated once we know the extent of our school closure.

I want to point out an Important distinction between quarter grades and report cards versus transcript grades. A final transcript, which is what makes up the permanent record and what is sent to colleges, does not show individual quarter grades. A transcript only shows the final grade earned in a course and final assessments such as Regents exams. I will continue to work with Guidance Counselors to protect our students against being harmed in any way from the uncertainties of these unprecedented times. As long as we continue to work together, students continue to show their best efforts and stay connected to the work assigned and teachers continue to support our students through distance learning, we will all come out of this better than how we entered. Thank you as always for your kind words and support and please stay healthy!

Dedicated to excellence,



Keith Schenker

Attachment

**WESTLAKE HIGH SCHOOL  
DISTANCE LEARNING BELL SCHEDULE  
(2 HR. DELAY)  
BELL SCHEDULE**

<b>Block Class</b>		<b>Period</b>	
<b>Block 1</b>	<b>9:45-10:43</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>9:45-10:12</b>
		<b>2</b>	<b>10:14-10:43</b>
<b>Block 2</b>	<b>10:47-11:43</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>10:47-11:14</b>
		<b>4</b>	<b>11:16-11:43</b>
<b>Block 3</b>	<b>11:47-1:12</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>11:47-12:14</b>
		<b>6</b>	<b>12:16-12:43</b>
		<b>7</b>	<b>12:45-1:12</b>
<b>Block 4</b>	<b>1:16-2:15</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1:16-1:43</b>
		<b>9</b>	<b>1:45-2:15</b>