

Parent Frequently Asked Questions – Updated May 1, 2020

What are we doing for QTR 3 and QTR 4 grades?

- For the 3rd quarter, all courses will be withholding marking period grades until the last week of school in June.
- For almost every course at GFMS, MP 4 will be combined into MP 3 at the end of June for grading purposes. These “local courses” will be Pass/Fail for the 3rd and 4th MP.
- Courses that receive high-school credit will get a numeric grade for MP 3 and a Pass/Fail grade for MP 4.

What are we doing regarding quarter classes (Technology, Art, Music, Health, and FACS)?

- Quarter 3 courses such as Art, Music, Technology, Health, and Family/Consumer Science will stay with the current rosters. Quarter 4 courses will not occur this year.
- The Special Areas Departments have Enrichment Activities for students have an interest in a certain area.

What about state assessments?

- All grades 3-8 math, ELA, and science assessments are cancelled for the 2019-2020 school year.
- The Board of Regents cancelled all regents’ exams for the 2019-2020 school year.
- Students in Algebra, Earth Science, Living Environment, and World Language students will receive a waiver for the regent’s exam, providing they pass the course.

What about field trips and special events?

- All field trips are cancelled for the remainder of the year. We are currently working on processing refunds for families.
- All on campus events are cancelled through June 30th.
- Grade 8 commencement recognition has yet to be determined. Administration will be meeting with G.O. students to discuss options.

What will happen if my child is not doing classwork?

- We at GFMS recognize that some children struggle in school even with significant classroom support. Our distance learning plan cannot replace classroom experiences or your relationships. Children may be facing struggles that impact their ability to learn and work from home.
- Beginning on May 11th, we will transition from emphasizing non-contact to non-performance. This simply means that teachers will now focus on those students who are not working up to capability under DL. Teachers will reach out to their other team members and to the student and family directly. If improvement does not occur, GFMS administration will be contacted and they can also reach out to the family.
- If you are using Teams or another online program (IXL, Read-180, etc.) and we can see whether a student is/is not completing assignments. Teachers are expected to reach out and ask if there are any issues with the software (or any other issues) that might prevent children from participating.

Is there Building Access?

- At this point, community members are not permitted in the school. Facilities department has deep cleaned the building and wants to keep it sanitized. If this should change, administration will contact you. The only exceptions to this would be for food and laptop distribution
- Faculty has little to no access to the building as per direction from the superintendent.

How to get my Office 365 Username and Password?

- Parents were emailed this information from the CCSD on 3/31.
- Contact grade-level admin or email techsupport@carmelschools.org if you need assistance.

Can students get a laptop from the district?

- The CCSD has a limited number of devices that it has, or can, hand out to families and it is based on need. Students at GFMS were surveyed prior to the school closing about who has limited computer/internet access in their homes. During distribution, we hand out internet offers from local cable providers.
- If you have a question about getting a device or a device not working, please contact the district at techsupport@carmelschools.org.

Are we using MS Teams or Zoom?

- While Zoom is an excellent virtual meeting tool, the CCSD supports MS Teams. As with all online resources, we should be maximizing our use of the platforms that are already supported by the district. However, if you feel that Zoom is the only way to effectively conduct Distance Learning, then you need to make sure that every student in your group has a parent/guardian complete the permission form and you need to “coach them up” on how to create accounts and use the platform.

What do I do if a student behaves inappropriately when a student is on Teams or Zoom?

- Each teacher should establish social norms that are appropriate for the grade level, classroom, subject area, and consistent with the CCSD Code of Conduct.
- Teachers should immediately address the inappropriate behavior the same way they would in the classroom and call/e-mail the parent.
- Student will be reminded about the appropriate expectations before they re-enter a classroom environment. If the behavior continues, the CCSD could suspend computing privileges and a GFMS administrative conference would take place.

Are we collecting work from students while on DL?

- All work will be ungraded at this time. Teachers will keep track of assignments and provide feedback to students. Students should save their work as we await further guidance from NY State.