

Principal's Log 2.33

Dear TMS Families,

I write to you with continued thoughts and prayers for you and your loved ones. By now you have probably heard that the Governor has cancelled school for the remainder of the academic year. These are very strange times.

This message will be fragmented as I have to cover a few topics. They include: a change to AIS teacher assignments, an update on 4th quarter grading, and an opportunity for you to give the TMS digital learning team feedback. Before I begin, I want to recognize our teachers as today wraps up the annual celebration of Teacher Appreciation Week. I imagine most of you feel as if you can now consider yourselves in this category. :-) That said, if you get the chance, reach out to a teacher with a thank you note this weekend.

As for Academic Intervention Services (AIS), we have learned that the e-learning middle school schedule gives us more flexibility in assigning (AIS) teachers to students. Therefore, effective Monday, 5/4 AIS students can expect to see their grade level teachers delivering instruction in these classes. This is certainly an improvement as these teachers know the students and the content best. The current schedule remains the same. Our teachers have asked me to extend invitations to any student to join into these sessions as needed.

Here is the plan for fourth quarter grading at the middle school.

Our mantra is "do no harm."

While all four quarters will continue to be weighted at 25%, if the numerical grade a student attains in marking period 4 increases their final year average in a course, it will be included in the calculation of the final average (F1.) Otherwise, a student's final average for the year would be based upon their performance up until the end of the 3rd marking as of April 17.

TMS Regents exams and all other final exams are canceled. We will redistribute weighting percentages equally 25% for each quarter. Please know that a student must pass a Regents course to get credit.

Fourth quarter courses will be scored with a P for Pass. If a student did exceptionally well, teachers will indicate this with the comment, "Student achievement was outstanding."

I have to admit that none of this is perfect. While creating this plan we kept in mind the times that we are in and the emotional needs of adolescent children.

Finally, I am asking for feedback. How is everybody doing? How can we improve? Please use the linked Google form below to share your thoughts with us. We will study the data, and respond. [Family Check-in survey](#)

Have a great weekend!

Your Principal, Greg Stiefel

<https://twitter.com/GregStiefel>

Be sure to check out our website for PTA flyers, calendar snapshots, and other reminders.

http://tms.tuckahoeschools.org/201718_weekly_enewsletter