

School Closure for the 2019-20 School Year Communication

We faced the reality on Monday that remote learning has been extended by Governor DeWine for the rest of the 2019-20 school year. While we had been hoping for the ability to return to school this year, the impact of coronavirus on our world has made that impossible. My heart is especially broken for our seniors, the Class of 2020. We will make every effort to celebrate the completion of their K-12 experience, and any end-of-year celebrations will be communicated by each building.

The extension of the school closure brings about many questions that our students, staff and parents have on how the year will end. This document was crafted with those questions, and our responses, in mind. It is important to share that the well-being of our students, staff and families is the most important item on our minds. We also understand the need for learning to continue for our students, and with that expectation we have to be empathetic to the needs of all involved. Our Portrait of a Graduate competencies of *Empathy, Resilience, Responsibility, Adaptability, Critical Thinking and Collaboration* will be on full display by all of us!

Below you will find guidance on topics that are impacted by the closure. We will continue to prioritize the emotional well-being of our families, students and staff. In the coming weeks, we will certainly add to this list as more clarity comes on what we can and cannot do as a school district.

♠ General announcements:

- **School calendar:** We will follow our 2019-2020 school calendar that was Board approved with the last day of school on May 28.
- **End of year activities:** All end-of-year events in Granville Schools are postponed or cancelled at this time. Even something as simple as locker clean-out has to be handled with care and safety in mind. The rescheduling of any school events or activities will be communicated at the building level and communicated on the District web site and social media outlets.
- **Families in Need:** If any family is in need, please reach out to school personnel. We are able to help families in several different ways or we can put you in touch with organizations that can assist.

- ♠ **What we expect from students:** The students have done a tremendous job of engaging in the online learning to this point, and we will expect them to continue that progress to the end of the year. Teachers are using self-created videos, videos from multiple educational resources, and face-to-face instruction to bring new content to students during remote learning. We expect students to engage in the online opportunities available, complete the assignments to the best of their ability, and take advantage of support offered by each class.

Assignments will take on various forms and can be for review or introductory content. Students will be given ample time to complete assignments in an online environment, but



we acknowledge each student's situation is unique. We implore students and their families to contact their teachers and school personnel if they are having difficulty or are unable to access content in any way. We want to help, but we need you to share the concern with us!

- ♠ **Student support and intervention:** Each building has a protocol of contacting and working with students and their families if a student has challenges completing work. For younger students, families are contacted immediately. For older students, the initial contact from school personnel could be with the student. Parents/guardians will then be contacted if growth and improvement is not made in a timely manner.

Staff members will have office hours that will be communicated to students and families via email or Schoology. Office hours are an opportunity for students to get academic assistance, to touch base with their teachers in a small group setting, or to simply say hello. All staff-to-student class interactions will take place in Schoology when possible, and Zoom will only be used for unique situations that are outside of a traditional class environment.

- ♠ **Grading Practices:** Grading practices will differ depending on the age level of the student. In all scenarios, we strived to modify our grading practices to be sensitive to the burden remote learning has on staff, students and their families. We want and need the learning process to continue for our students *without harm* to grades and transcripts, and the practices below represent that belief.

- **Granville Elementary, Grades K – 3:** The standards based grade card will still be utilized by GES teachers. Students will be given feedback in their learning through written and verbal interactions with their teacher. The report card will contain more narrative information than in previous quarters to provide parents feedback on their student's progress during the quarter.
- **Granville Intermediate, Grades 4 – 6:** Pass/Incomplete/Fail grading system will be in place for all courses in grades 4 – 6. In this grading system, students can earn the following grades:

P = Pass, which means the student consistently submitted satisfactory coursework and engaged in remote learning during the closure.

I = Incomplete, which means the student has coursework that can be completed towards a passing grade but is delayed for some reason. This grade will only be issued if the school and the student's family are in agreement that a delay is important to the student's well-being and/or learning due to specific circumstances.

F = Fail, which means the student has not completed or did not consistently submit satisfactory coursework despite multiple communication efforts with the student and their family by school personnel.

- **Granville Middle School, Grades 7 & 8:** Pass/Incomplete/Fail grading system will be in place for all non-high school credit courses in grades 7 & 8. In this grading system, students can earn the following grades:

P = Pass, which means the student consistently submitted satisfactory coursework and engaged in remote learning during the closure.

I = Incomplete, which means the student has coursework that can be completed towards a passing grade but is delayed for some reason. This grade will only be

issued if the school and the student's family are in agreement that a delay is important due to specific circumstances.

F = Fail, which means the student has not completed or did not submit satisfactory coursework despite multiple communication efforts with the student and their family by school personnel.

Note: This applies to non-high school credit courses at GMS only. High school credit courses at GMS such as Algebra I, Spanish/French 8, Geometry, Biology and FCS will follow the high school grading system outlined next in this document.

- **Granville High School, Grades 9 – 12 and high school courses at GMS: Normal letter grades using the current GHS grading scales will be issued for the 4th quarter for GHS courses with some exceptions.**

Grades will be determined by the completion of assignments, traditional and non-traditional assessments, response to feedback from teachers, and reflection on student learning. This may include allowing students to demonstrate learning in other forms not mentioned above, resubmitting low quality work, or any other appropriate methods that are tailored to remote learning. All grades will be recorded in ProgressBook.

Final exams will not be given. The 2nd Semester final grades will be calculated by averaging the 3rd and 4th quarter grades.

No harm provision—Students who regularly complete assignments in a satisfactory manner and seek online assistance from teachers (as needed) will be protected from decreases in their year-long grades earned in the first three quarters. This will be accomplished by the following:

- If a student's 4th quarter grade will improve their overall grade for a course, they will be awarded the 4th quarter letter grade they earn.
- If a student's 4th quarter grade will negatively impact their overall grade for a course, they will be awarded a grade of P (Passing) for the 4th quarter. This signifies they passed the class and have earned the 4th quarter credit. The "P" will not be included in the GPA calculation for the quarter, semester, or final grade in the class. A grade of P will be counted towards fall sports eligibility in the same way any passing letter grade would.
- I (Incomplete) grades may be issued under normal school policy and procedure outlined in the student handbook. Incompletes will only be issued if the school and the student's family are in agreement that a delay in the submission of a 4th quarter grade is important to the student's well-being and/or learning due to specific circumstances.
- Students will only be given a Failing grade if they have completed little or no coursework even after multiple attempts have been made by

school personnel to contact the student and their family for assistance.

- ♠ **Graduation requirements for seniors and underclassmen:** Graduation requirements for the Class of 2020 have been modified to only include that the student has met the course requirements needed for graduation. Per recent legislation, all testing requirements are waived for the seniors. We are committed to trying to have a graduation for our seniors in some capacity within the limits imposed by our state's orders.

For non-senior GMS and GHS students who are in courses that state testing would have counted toward their future graduation, the Ohio Department of Education should be coming out with guidance on how this will be handled. There will be no testing for this school year, however.

- ♠ **Spring Sports:** All spring sports for schools in Ohio are cancelled. The Ohio High School Athletic Association is working on guidance for eligibility for fall student-athletes, but we know that students who get a P (Passing) for the 4th quarter will have that grade count towards eligibility.

We understand that this email probably doesn't answer all of your questions, but we wanted to provide information in manageable chunks. Please send your additional questions to Janelle King at jkking@granvilleschools.org. We will provide additional updates to address your questions.