

Dear AAHS/AAMS D276 Students, Parents, and Community,

Let me start with this shutdown is not what students, teachers, parents, or school leaders signed-up for. No one is to blame, but in the end, there are always positives and negatives from guidelines, rules, and directives.

On Sunday, the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) determined that all schools in Illinois must begin Remote Learning Days. Remote Learning days can be carried-out in several forms. Luckily for our district, many of our staff started Remote Learning during the early weeks of the shutdown.

The new rules require that our Remote Learning Plan be posted on our website. The D276 plan will be posted by Monday April 6th. ISBE has granted every district the opportunity to use up to five (5) days for Remote Learning Planning. These days will be considered attendance days and will not need to be made-up. As you read further, you will see why we are waiting until Monday to send out our Remote Learning Plan.

During these newly created Remote Learning Days, the State has set a baseline that grading cannot have a negative impact on a students grade. There are numerous factors that led ISBE to this position. In our case, our Trimester set-up is not built for the timing of this shutdown. While normally a very positive schedule for students, the Trimester set-up has left us in a situation where grades are not indicative of student content knowledge. **We were only three weeks (of 12) into our final trimester..** Some classes have very few grades. A student with an "A" may have scored well on two assignments, while a student with a lower grade, may have made a misstep on a small number of assignments. I am working with ISBE on guidance regarding how to address the Remote Learning guidelines and how to make sure our Seniors (and the rest of the HS) have met all graduation requirements. **The two easy options for meeting graduation requirements and earning credits are:**

1. Participate in Remote Learning to ensure a student has enough "student engagement time" for ISBE to approve granting credit for all classes required for graduation.
2. We return to school on May 1st and use the remaining days to teach and assess. As we have seen thus far, a concrete return date (if there is one) will be hard to nail down.

Going forward, our teachers will be operating on the concept of 100% participation. This new **Remote Learning will only be successful on an individual student basis if the student, parents, and teacher are dedicated to continued learning, structure, and engagement.**

In the end (according to ISBE *today*), if we do not return to in-person school and if a student does not participate, the student will receive the same grade they attained on March 16th. These grades are not indicative of student content knowledge. Students who participate will be able to raise their grades and MORE IMPORTANTLY, expand their knowledge and skill level while connecting with their teachers.

As I await further guidance from ISBE, I would invite all of our AAHS and AAMS students to engage in Remote Learning for the following three reasons:

1. Structure and access to learning opportunities.
2. To prevent potentially having to make-up a course online next school year.
3. ***To ensure that graduation requirements are met to the satisfaction of the Illinois State Board of Education (for seniors in 2020 and for 9th-11th graders as we go forward).***

***In closing, I would strongly encourage our students to participate in the Remote Learning opportunities sent out by our teachers.***

Transparently,  
Dr. Curry