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Karen D. Krause, Interim Superintendent

May 5, 2020

Dear Families,

As we continue on through fourth quarter during this unprecedented time of national health crisis, we wanted to reach out to you, our valued partners in education, to not only share some information but to check in on your well-being.

As you are probably aware, Governor Cuomo continued the closure of schools through the end of the school year. In addition, grades 3-8 testing and all Regents exams have been canceled. We will continue to provide and deliver meals on Tuesdays and Fridays for all who have selected to receive them.

Teachers will continue to provide instruction to students via technology, provided by the school if requested. Various platforms for delivery will continue to be utilized, such as Google Classroom and Zoom. Please continue to communicate via email or phone with your child's teacher to keep apprised of any changes. Teachers will also continue to maintain office hours in order to assist students and parents with any questions arising out of remote learning. Please notify your child's teacher if internet access is or becomes an issue for your family, so alternate arrangements can be made.

Guidance counselors continue to check in with students as well as talk about course options for next year. Teachers and counselors will continue to check in on your children through phone calls, emails, and Zoom meetings; remember, we miss them and want to make sure they are doing all right! This is a stressful time for everyone and children are often not able to verbalize the anxiety they are feeling. Trying to keep some bit of structure and normality will help them get through this.

Instruction during this time of extended closure definitely looks different than when we are actually in our building. Many of you may be feeling an extra amount of pressure because you are trying to do so many jobs at once; please know that we don't expect you to be a teacher that you were never trained to be. We appreciate all of your efforts in nudging your children to do the educational activities that they have been given; these assignments are valuable and we ask that you continue to do whatever you can as a student and family to work with us. It is extremely important that all of our students maintain a level of engagement. We understand there are bigger things happening in many of your lives; however, it is more important now than ever for us to partner together in this new phase of education. We are

trying to balance the need for academic consistency with the space and grace that you need to bring your family through this pandemic.

As a district, the safety and well-being of our students and their families during this health crisis continues to be foremost in our minds. With that being said, please do not stress over how much work your child is doing, or what his/her grade might be; every piece of work that your child turns in will be looked at and will help us to assess their level of understanding. Quarter 3 was adjusted to end on March 13, which was the last day students were physically present in the school building. Therefore, quarters 1, 2, and 3 will have traditional grading. Data from Quarter 4 will be utilized to ensure that the learning students demonstrated is reflected. Please see the enclosed "Clymer Remote Learning Document" for final grading.

Continued communication throughout this time is crucial; please do not hesitate to call your child's teacher, counselor or principal to talk with them about the learning, or to ask for assistance. We are here for you and together we will all get through this!!

Sincerely,



Karen D. Krause
Interim Superintendent



Brianne Fadale
7 – 12 Principal
Director of Special Education



Kirby J. Oldham
Elementary Principal

Clymer Remote Learning Document 2019-2020

We have decided to move forward with a “no harm” policy for all of our students at Clymer School District. The “no harm” policy ensures students’ grades can only improve during remote learning, in line with state guidance. This will allow students to continue to submit assignments which demonstrate their proficiency toward the NYS Standards. We will continue to emphasize that learning is a process and we encourage our students to continue to engage in the learning opportunities that are being provided by our teachers.

Recording Remote Learning:

Teachers will continue to provide students formative feedback for assigned tasks (either through narrative comments, a standards-based rubric, a performance task checklist, or with a numeric score) through Google Classroom, Showbie, email, as well as other means the teacher deems appropriate. Criteria for assigned tasks will be communicated transparently to students and families, to the greatest extent possible.

Starting with the adjusted fourth quarter marking period (on or about 3/16), teachers will continue to record remote learning assignments and tasks. Data obtained from the variety of remote learning opportunities will be utilized in determining the level of support students will receive when we return to our traditional, in person format. We continue to encourage our students to be engaged with the learning *process*, and are steering away from simply completing activities as though learning is a checklist.

Reporting Learning for K-2 Grades

Report cards for students in K-2nd grade will look a bit different for the end of this year. Students will be receiving a report card, but the terminology for describing the process toward standards based mastery will be changed to the following:

Pass *Student demonstrated proficiency of the learning standards over the 4th quarter.*

Incomplete *Student did not demonstrate proficiency of the learning standards over the 4th quarter.*

Reporting Learning for 3-6 Grades:

Report cards for students in 3rd-6th grade will look a bit different for the end of this year. Students will be receiving a report card, but the terminology for describing the process toward standards based mastery will be changed to the following:

Pass *Student demonstrated proficiency of the learning standards over the 4th quarter.*

Incomplete *Student did not demonstrate proficiency of the learning standards over the 4th quarter.*

The numerical grade will be based on the average for the first 3 quarters. Teachers will include general comments of student’s progress during the COVID-19 school closure. Data collected on student performance over the school closure will be utilized in determining the level of support during the 2020-2021 school year.

Reporting 4th Quarter Grades (ALL Courses for Grades 7 -12):

The following will be used as an interim grading procedure for the 4th quarter based on the standards that were taught. (3/16-EOY):

Credit: *Student demonstrated proficiency of the NYS learning standards over the 4th quarter and have obtained 4th quarter credit.*

Incomplete: *Student was unable to demonstrate proficiency of the NYS learning standards due to the school closure. The student will need additional time and support to meet proficiency on the NYS learning standards.*

**An Instructional Committee will meet with each teacher to discuss all students' progress during our remote learning period.*

Determining and Reporting Final Grades for 7-12 (Y1)

When determining the cumulative average, student achievement from Q1,Q2,Q3 will be included. The Instructional Committee will review student progress of Q4 to determine if proficiency of the learning standards were accomplished during the remote learning period (3/16-EOY).

**An instructional committee will meet with each teacher to discuss all students progress during our remote learning.*

Teachers will also provide a progress report at the end of the year to provide overall feedback on student's progress toward the learning standards as well as general comments of their performance during the COVID-19 school closure. Data collected on student performance over the school closure will be utilized in determining the level of support during the 2020-2021 school year.

DUAL ENROLLMENT COURSES ONLY:

Jamestown Community College requires a numeric grade from Dual Enrollment instructors, following the guidance in established course syllabi. The following recommended practices will be used to support the calculation of student grades during this time.

- Assignments should focus on the essential to know.
- As students submit assignments, review and provide feedback. As students meet standard, assign all points for the assignment.
- No penalties for late work.
- Course final grades (and mid-semester grades) can be determined holistically, taking into account Semester 1 work as appropriate.
- Numeric course grades will be supplied to JCC only; grading on the CSD report card will follow the final course grade guidance listed in this document.
- Teachers will retain records of the submitted numeric grades as back up documentation.

**If a student withdraws from a JCC course, it will be reported as an Incomplete on their Clymer transcript.*

GPA Calculations will exclude Q4 (Included: Sept. 4 - March 13).

GPA Calculations will only include Q1, Q2 and Q3. Annotations on student transcripts as well as the School Transcript "Key" will indicate the shift in reporting and associated codes for the school year. Transcripts will show the accrue ment of course credit, following NYS Guidance.