



Harrington School District No. 204

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May 14, 2020

Dear Harrington Families,

It is my hope that each of you and your families are doing well and are staying safe! Thank you to each parent for your continued efforts in helping us educate your students during this unprecedented time. Thank you also to each student for your choice to continue to focus on your studies and connect with your teachers who have been reaching out to you to continue the learning process. Your choice to still be successful in school despite the COVID-19 chaos is a tribute to your character. **I am so very proud of each and every one of you who are making this choice!** The learning your children continue to accomplish now will pay off in great dividends when they come back next school year! This letter is to inform you of information as it pertains to all students' second semester grading and our updated school end date given the COVID-19 situation.

ELEMENTARY STUDENTS (Grades P-6)

The Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) has offered guidance to us for assessment of our kindergarten through fourth grade students. Please rest assured that all of our students will move forward to the next grade level. OSPI Superintendent Reykdal indicated that K-8 teaching staff would continue to use the same grading standard and methods that were being used prior to the date we closed school for the remainder of the school year. That being said, it is vital that each and every elementary school student remain engaged in learning. The more your child learns while remaining at home, the further the elementary teaching staff will be able to take their learning when they return next school year.

SECONDARY STUDENTS (Grades 7-12)

We have now received additional answers that we have been waiting for from the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) and have had an opportunity to interpret what these answers mean to our high school students and teaching staff. The following is to share information as it pertains to our high school students' as well as eighth graders taking high school credit classes for the second semester.

“Do No Harm” Rule: Washington State Superintendent Chris Reykdal has indicated that no student should have a grade reduced due to the school closure that occurred due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Because of this, all high school teaching staff members have recorded the grade each secondary student had accumulated on the last day we held school on Friday, March 13. Teaching staff will be utilizing this grade as the baseline for each student as the grade he or she cannot go below and hopefully, in many cases, will improve upon for his or her final semester grade.

Grading: Keeping in mind the “Do No Harm” rule and given the options approved by Superintendent Reykdal, the Harrington teaching staff has elected to award the following grades for second semester: A, B, C, D, and/or Incomplete.

No “F” Letter Grades Will Be Given: Superintendent Reykdal has mandated that there will be no “F” letter grades given second semester. If a student who would have traditionally received

an F letter grade due to the inability to master standards necessary to pass either this entire semester or since the COVID-19 school shut-down, that student will instead receive an "Incomplete" grade where he or she will be given an opportunity to improve the grade to the March 13 baseline grade if it was an A, B, C or D at that point or at least improve it to a "D" if it were failing at that point.

Making Up Incompletes: In order to make up incomplete semester grades given due to lack of mastery of standards, a plan for course completion will be developed and followed. A plan of course completion might include:

1. **Independent Study:** In some cases, a student will be given an independent study developed by his or her teacher. The independent study will need to be completed by the student during the coming school year and will include only the standards the student did not master. Once the independent study is completed, the student's "Incomplete" grade will become a letter grade.
2. **Backfilling Missed Content Standards:** In other cases, the additional standards will be re-learned or "backfilled" in a class that follows in the class sequence. For example, a student might be found to be able to backfill missed algebra 2 standards by moving on to pre-calculus and learning those standards in this next-sequence course.
3. **Repeated Courses:** In other cases, the entire semester of the incomplete course could be repeated if the student struggled to master standards the entire semester—even before the COVID-19 shutdown. A repeated course could take the form of on-line learning, summer school, or re-taking the class again in a traditional class setting.

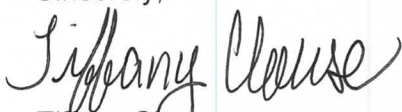
"Pass" Grades Will Not Be Allowed in Most Cases: Superintendent Reykdal has ruled that "Pass" grades will not be allowed. There are a few exceptions to the "No-Pass-Grades-Can-Be-Given" rule. The following types of classes can still be graded as "Pass" for Secondary Students: Teacher's aides and study halls.

THE LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

The last day for seniors to turn in work to improve their grades is Tuesday, June 2. Seniors will need to arrange to get any work still out to their teachers on that date. The last day for all other students to turn in work to improve their grades is Friday, June 9. On June 9, school personnel will drive the bus routes and pick up any work students have completed. If a student wants to hand in work after it is picked up, the student will need to make special arrangements with their teacher to get the work turned in. Grades will be calculated by staff members and turned in to the office by Tuesday, June 16. Report cards will be mailed home later that week. The last meal delivery date for the year will be June 12.

It is vital that each and every student remain engaged in learning. As you can see from this letter, even though there are "No Fail" and "Do No Harm" rules in place, this does not mean that students can simply do nothing—contrarily, what this means is that every high school student must work diligently to either improve or maintain their March 13 baseline grade. Please do call or email if you have any questions or need clarification.

Sincerely,



Tiffany Clouse
Principal
Harrington School District