



## WEST ALLEGHENY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Dear West Allegheny Families,

It is hard to believe that we are starting the fourth nine weeks today and are only 34 days away from ending the 2019-2020 school year on May 29. Although necessary, the Governor's news last week to close schools for the remainder of the school year is heartbreaking to the West Allegheny staff. With the reality of remote learning being extended, we want to reassure you that we are here to support you and your child/ren. We acknowledge and are understanding that parents cannot replace our teachers, especially while juggling working from home and navigating so many other unexpected issues as a result of COVID-19.

To that end, we are modifying our fourth nine weeks grading procedures. While understanding the home challenges that you are facing, we strongly believe that no child should fail or be penalized as a result of remote learning. Our approach to remote learning has been and will continue to be to provide quality, accessible work with supports in place to ensure success and minimize learning loss and gaps. Our fourth quarter grading procedures will reflect that no child will fail and each child will be supported to complete the work as necessary and appropriate. Please see below for the modified fourth quarter grading procedures:

- **High School students** will earn grades as they traditionally have as assignments are completed throughout the fourth quarter. At the end of the quarter, students will earn an A (100%-90%), B (89.9%-80.0%), C (79.9% to 70.0%) or I (Incomplete 69.9%-0%). The incomplete will be given in place of a D or F and students will have until the end of the first grading period next school year to make up the necessary work, with teacher support, to earn a higher grade. It was important to preserve the high school transcript along with year-to-date QPA and cumulative QPA for our students, while not allowing any student to fail during remote learning and have the option to make up work. Teachers and counselors will be working closely with seniors to ensure all graduation requirements are completed prior to graduating on May 29.
- **Middle School students** will earn grades as they typically have as assignments are completed throughout the fourth quarter. At the end of the quarter, traditional grades will be converted to a weighted grading scale of either an A (100%-85%), P (Passing 84.9%-70%) or I (Incomplete 69.9%-0%). The incomplete will be given in place of a D or F and students will have until the end of the first grading period next school year to make up the necessary work, with teacher support, to earn a higher grade. Middle school students in high school courses (algebra 7, algebra 8, geometry and Level 1 world language) will follow the high school grading procedures as outlined above for those specific courses.
- **Students in grades 2-5** will earn an O (Outstanding 100%-85.0%), S (Satisfactory 84.9%-70.0%) or I (Incomplete 69.9%-0%) at the end of the quarter. Teachers will grade assignments throughout the fourth quarter with the conversion to O, S, I reflected at the end of the quarter. Grade level standards applicable to the fourth quarter will not be assessed on the report card for grades 2-5.
- **Students in grades K-1** will not be graded using percentages and will continue with standards-based assessments. First grade students will be assessed on a reduced number of standards and can earn an O (Outstanding), S (Satisfactory) or I (Incomplete). Kindergarten students will be assessed as S (Satisfactory) or I (Incomplete) for their participation in work meeting the standard.

Please be assured that the above guidelines were established in collaboration at all levels to fully support our students and families achieve success during this unprecedented time. If you or your child have any questions regarding grading, please do not hesitate to reach out to your child's teacher or principal.

Third quarter report cards will be available in Skyward on Friday, April 17. Fourth quarter progress reports will not be published in Skyward. Please continue to check Skyward for your child's progress throughout the fourth quarter. The last report card for the 2019-2020 school year will be issued on June 4, 2020. We will also be communicating our plans for students to pick up personal items once we have more direction on social distancing and stay-at-home orders.

Thank you for your continued support.