

May 5, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students,

We hope this letter finds you well as we all continue to press forward during this unprecedented time. As parents, you are to be commended for your extraordinary efforts in supporting your child's learning; we are proud of you and our educators!

Following Governor Evers order closing all school buildings until June 30, 2020, eLearning will continue for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. Due to our school closure, there has been an extensive review of our grading system in an attempt to be equitable and fair to all students as they struggle with this shift in learning. We have reviewed and taken into consideration all items such as access to the internet, support for eLearning at home, home environment, learning challenges, and more. After reviewing these factors and legal options, the school board has decided on the grading system detailed at the end of this letter for the second semester of the 2019-2020 school year. We understand that in these difficult times no one decision will make all students or parents happy; however, our decision was made with the focus on equity and care for all students. Great considerations were taken regarding academic grading as it is our district's goal to promote every student to the next grade level while celebrating their hard work and learning and to minimize the negative impacts from the unforeseeable circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic.

To assist you in making your decision regarding grading, progress reports will continue to be issued using our current grading system so that you can evaluate your child's progress in terms of passing classes. In addition, teachers will be commenting on the student's academic effort of participation for each course or content area.

The comments being utilized during this eLearning grading period will be:

Student had consistent participation during remote learning.

Student had inconsistent participation during remote learning.

Student had limited participation during remote learning.

After considering guidance from the State of Wisconsin, consulting with other school districts, and serious discussions, we have decided to create the following grading system for our students and their families.

Overview

- From the beginning of this situation our focus has been on student learning.
- We are very aware of the challenges and pressures that many of our students and families face throughout this pandemic.
- Our purpose in creating more flexibility is to protect academic progress for all students.
- With this focus and purpose in mind, we will continue to provide educational opportunities through online instruction, assessment, and feedback throughout the rest of the school year.
- The grading practices listed below will be in effect for the 2nd semester of the 2019-2020 school year.

Marathon High School

- eLearning instruction will continue online through Powerschool and email for the remainder of the year based on the new school ending date of May 22, 2020.
- Assignments will continue to be graded/assessed.
- All students will be included in the default “Pass/No Credit/Incomplete” system unless they choose to retain academic grades. This must be done in writing, using the form included in the mailing, no later than May 15. No exceptions.

Grading

Default for All Students: Pass/No Credit/Incomplete (for all classes)

- Designated to accommodate those with less access and/or greater obstacles to virtual learning.
- Must earn a 60% for the semester to receive a passing grade.
- Pass/No Credit will not affect GPA.
- **Any high school class that counts towards graduation in which a student earns a No Credit will need to be repeated; including seniors.**
- **Loss of credits may affect a student’s promotion to the next grade.**
- **Quarter 4 / Semester II Grades** move to
 - **PASS** - If a student is passing (60% or better) the semester for a class on May 22, the class will be recorded as a passed credit.
 - **INCOMPLETE** - If a student is failing a class (below 60%) at the end of the semester, May 22, they will be given an INC and allowed to work with their teachers to try to earn a Pass for the credit during the last 11 days of the semester, ending on June 9. After June 9, the credit will become Pass (60% or higher) or will be a No Credit (below 60%) and removed from the student’s transcripts.
 - **NO CREDIT** - For failing grades (below 60%) after June 9, the class will be dropped from the students transcript for the 2019-2020 school year. If the class is required for graduation, the students schedule will be adjusted for the 2020-2021 school year.

- **Dual Credit Classes** - Students may earn the Pass for the high school transcript but their university may maintain a letter grade. Each student should check with their partnering university directly.
- **Students who do not receive credit** for a required class will have their schedules adjusted to retake the class during the 2020-2021 school year. This will potentially eliminate a student's chosen electives for the upcoming school year.
- **End the semester early** (May 22 for students that have passed classes) to allow teacher time to address any INC during the last 11 days of the semester and students time to recover credits they may have lost. This would also allow us time to have students return items to school; chromebooks, textbooks, and other school materials.

OR

Optional Letter Grade Choice (for all classes) - Parent and Student Must Opt-In

- Designed to honor students who continue to maintain their high grade levels and who have been consistently completing homework and engaging with teachers on a weekly basis.
- Provides an opportunity to signal to colleges that students have maintained a high level of success during a time of adversity.
- Grades and GPA will be calculated as normal.
- Semester grades are based on formative and summative assignments/assessments given throughout the second semester, including both 3rd and 4th quarters.
- This is a highly recommended option.
- Must have submitted opt-in form, signed by student and parent, returned to the school by **May 15**. No exceptions!
- The semester ends on Friday, May 22, 2020, with no late work accepted with this option and the letter grade is final.

Declaration of grading preference

- Parents should go over the two options with their child and determine which is in the best interest of his/her academic success

It is our goal to provide a quality education as we finish this school year, while also providing students needed flexibility to be academically successful during this crisis. We encourage any students that are struggling academically to reach out to our staff for support.

Respectfully Yours,

David Beranek, Ed.S.
Principal, Marathon High School