May 8, 2020

Grading under Distance Learning for All for Grades 9 - 11

Parents/Guardians and students,

We hope you and your loved ones are well. We are looking forward to when we can see you in person. That will be a great joy for all of us.

The practices regarding credits and grading in Distance Learning for All are designed to help students move forward during this time of social isolation during the COVID19 pandemic. Oregon Department of Education and Centennial High School want to be sure that students can earn credit and that this time will not harm their G.P.A.s moving forward. We also want to make sure that learning continues so students will be prepared to be successful next year when they move up. With the move to Distance Learning for All there are some big shifts in grading practices.

The first is that all classes will be graded Pass or Incomplete. A “Pass” will be awarded if a student normally would have received an A, B, C, or D. An “Incomplete” will be awarded if a student would have received an F in the past. If at the end of the year a student earns an incomplete, we will make a plan by September 2020 for how the student can earn that credit. The student will have until the end of the 2020 - 2021 school year to complete the elements of the plan and earn the credit.

The second element of Distance Learning for All is that students should continue learning from where they left off when school ended on March 12. If a student was not passing when we left school, this time for learning offers the opportunity to get their grade up to passing and earn the credit. If a student was already passing this “Essential Learning” is designed to help students be successful in future coursework, to develop skills that are useful across subject areas, to cultivate independent thinking, is feasible in time left, aligns with student interests, capitalizes on knowledge present in home and culture, and allows opportunities to share with each other. We have pared down what we would normally cover and changed our emphasis. All of this together will help our students to be successful during this time and in the future.

The third element is an element of grace or the “hold harmless” principle. While our teachers, administrators, classified staff and Information Technology department have made Herculean efforts to make distance learning work for all students there are some barriers that we cannot overcome. Oregon Department of Education has included a “hold harmless” principle in Distance Learning for All. We realize that there are many reasons that a student might not be able to participate in Distance Learning. The “hold harmless” principle has us award the grade, pass or incomplete, that a student had earned before school ended on March 12th if the student is not able to participate in Distance Learning.
If you have further questions on the grading policies during Distance Learning, please contact me at the email address below. You can also call and leave a message on my office telephone that I can retrieve from home.

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