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HERRICKS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Office of the Assistant Supt. for Curriculum & Instruction

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Dear Herricks Families,

As you are aware, the Governor recently announced that remote instruction will continue for the remainder of the school year. We have learned much as a community during this challenging period of time, but one thing is certain and that is our commitment to our children and their future. We are cognizant of the emotional toll this extended closure has taken on our students. We outline here an addition to our e-learning plan related to end-of-year grading. We have amended the 3rd trimester (Elementary) and 4th quarter (Secondary) grading protocols in an effort to measure progress and maintain student engagement. Accurate final academic reporting is important, but we are equally committed to a grading protocol that supports our students' social-emotional well-being.

As they have throughout this closure, teachers will continue to give students feedback. Feedback or grades may be numerical, letter, rubric-based, project-based, written comments, or any other form to measure progress or performance. What is important is that students (and parents) have a clear idea of how they are performing and progressing toward grade level standards or course expectations.

Elementary Grading Trimester 3

In the best interest of our students, we will roll over the grades from term 2 of the Standards Based Report Card, which will serve as the grade for Trimester 3. Students for whom we do not have grades from term 2 will receive NG (No Grade). No Grade does not mean a fail.

In addition to the grade, teachers will complete narrative comments on the report card for each student. Comments will consider areas of strength and areas in need of growth, engagement and effort, quality and completion of assignments, and understanding of concepts.

Special Area teachers will provide for each grade level, an overview of the projects done and skills taught this term.

Teachers of Academic Intervention Services (AIS) and English as a New Language (ENL) programs will complete progress reports for their students that reflect the whole year.

Special education teachers will complete their IEP progress reports for each student.

Secondary Grading Quarter 4

We are sensitive to ending the school year with a “do no harm” approach. There will be no final exam. Teachers will continue to collect and grade assignments as they normally do and grades will be entered into the gradebook on the portal. We expect students to continue to participate and engage in the online learning opportunities provided by their teachers.

For the 4th quarter, students will receive a grade that closely reflects traditional grading; however, the numeric bands will be more generous. We remain mindful that there may be stressors and that students are still wrestling with many of the challenges from this pandemic, therefore

- Students earning an average in the range of 90 - 100 will receive an A+ for Q4
- Students earning an average in the range of 80 - 89.9 will receive an B+ for Q4
- Students earning an average in the range of 70 - 79.9 will receive an C+ for Q4
- Students earning an average in the range of 65 - 69.9 will receive an C for Q4
- Students whose work this quarter is unable to be evaluated for any reason or whose quarter average falls below 65, will receive NG (No Grade). No Grade does not necessarily mean a fail.

Final Grade

A student’s final grade average for each course will not be lower than the average of quarters 1 and 2 at the middle school and quarters 1, 2, and 3 at the high school. At the end of the 4th quarter an analysis of each student's course grades will occur to ensure that the 4th quarter average does not harm the final grade. Quarter 4 grades can only serve to raise a student’s final grade average.

- At the MS, the final grade will be calculated giving equal weight (33.3%) to quarters 1, 2, and 4.
- At the HS, the final grade will be calculated giving equal weight (25%) to quarters 1, 2, 3, and 4.

We know that students may be feeling tremendous loss of those things familiar during this extended closure. We will continue with whatever traditions we can, including the Honor Roll. Any other end of year events that can be supported will be shared by the building principal.

We look forward to ending the year in as close to normalcy as possible for our students. We trust that this grading plan will serve to keep students engaged and rewarded for their efforts.

Please contact me if you have any questions that cannot be answered at the building level.

Sincerely,

K. Elizabeth Guercin
Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction