



April 14, 2020

Dear Parents of the Class of 2020:

Welcome back from spring break! While we sincerely miss our students, we're proud of our them for the way they are engaging in online learning with their teachers. We're also grateful for all you are doing to support them.

Many of you have asked questions about how teachers will assign grades in the wake of school closures. Understandably, parents of graduating seniors are particularly concerned. GCS is using the [State Board of Education Guidance for Remote Learning, Evaluation of Student Progress and Graduating Seniors](#). We will continue to provide updates from the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction as they are received.

Here's what you need to know about grading this spring as a parent of a senior:

Devices

If your child still needs a computing device for remote learning, please contact your principal immediately by contacting the school's office.

Overview

- Student grades have already been recorded for first semester, fall courses. First-semester (fall) grades will count toward students' grade point averages (GPAs). For year-long courses, the first semester (fall) term grade will be counted into the GPA weighted as a .5.
- For second semester (spring) courses, the third quarter grade will be a Pass "PC19" if the grade earned is greater than 59. The Pass "PC19" will not count in their GPA but will be awarded as a full credit.
 - Students whose earned grade is less than 60 will receive a Withdrawal "WC19."
 - The grade will not count in the student's GPA and your child will not earn a credit for the course. It does not mean your child has been withdrawn from school.
 - Students who receive a Withdrawal "WC19" in a course needed to meet the 22-credit graduation requirement should contact their counselor about a plan to recover the course credit by earning a passing grade. School counselors will also reach out to students who may need to recover course credit to graduate high school.
- For students enrolled in year-long courses, the first semester grades have already been recorded. Students will earn a third quarter grade of a Pass "PC19," if the grade earned is greater than 59. Pass "PC19" "grades" do not factor into student GPAs. However, students will earn half a credit for the third quarter course completion.

- Students whose earned grade is less than 60 will receive a Withdrawal "WC19."
- This does not mean your child has been withdrawn from school. However, it does mean that your child will not earn a credit for the course and that the grade will not count in the student's GPA.
- For the remainder of the year, teachers will focus lessons on the five to seven core concepts in each course, except for Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate and dual enrollment college courses.
- GPAs for the semester and the school year will be calculated using grades earned first semester.

Graduating Seniors

- Grades and course credit will be assigned based on the guidelines outlined above.
- Students who receive a Withdrawal "WC19" in a course needed to meet the 22-credit high school graduation requirement should contact their school counselors to see how they can recover the course credit by earning a passing grade.

AP/IB Courses

Advanced Placement (AP) exams will be administered this spring although not through an in-person, on-site format. Students will take a secure online exam from home and will earn college credit for passing scores. AP teachers have been trained on the required content and are authorized by the College Board to prepare students for these exams. Teachers also will address the major topics that colleges will assume students will have mastered prior to their arrival on campus in the summer or fall. AP exam grades will not be part of students' final grades, however.

IB Courses and Diploma

The [International Baccalaureate Organization \(IBO\)](#) has issued clear guidance on completion requirements for students enrolled in IB programs. Since IB exams will not be administered in May, IB diplomas and certificates (and potential college credit) will be awarded based upon internal assessment components for each IB content area. **These assessments, including all required student work, are due to the IBO by April 20.** This deadline is not flexible; the IBO will not make any exceptions.

Dual Enrollment/Career and College Promise

In keeping with state guidance, students may earn a grade on their college transcript for work completed during second semester. College grades will not be included in students' high school transcripts, however, or factor into the students' GPAs for the semester or school year. Students who receive a grade of D or above for a dual enrollment college course will receive college credit and a Pass (PC19) grade. Students who receive an F for the college course will not receive credit toward graduation for the course and will receive a withdrawal (WC19) that will not be included in their GPA calculations for the semester or the school year.

Occupational Course of Study – Work Study Requirements

If a student enrolled in an occupational course of study completes 157 hours of the 225 hours of “paid work hours” graduation requirement, the student will receive a Pass “PC19.” Students enrolled in an occupational course of study who have not completed 157 hours of the 225 hours of “paid work hours” can work directly with teachers who will make sure assignments are completed through distance learning so that students are able to attain a Pass “PC19”.

Other Students with Individualized Education Plans

Students with individual education plans (IEPs) should continue to receive support from both content teachers and special education teachers as they work to achieve their IEP goals. Teachers must provide the required modifications and supports in the IEP to ensure each student with disabilities has an equitable opportunity to master the core content and earn a Pass “PC19” grade. If adjustments are needed to ensure student success during distance learning, IEP teams may meet virtually, if all parties agree.

Again, thank you for encouraging your teenager to engage with his or her teacher and to continue learning online. Do what you can. We understand that this is a very unusual time for our families and our students. Some of you are facing tremendous difficulties. Our goal in continuing online learning is simply to prevent students from entering the next grade level with gaps in learning that could have a lasting impact.

Your child will benefit most by staying focused on learning and engaging with you and other trusted adults in family conversations and activities during this time. If you need more guidance or suggestions, please contact your child’s teacher or counselor. In addition to digital resources posted on Canvas, the Guilford County Schools’ website has a curated collection of e-books, Khan Academy videos, [BrainFuse Help Now](#) (24-7 tutoring, homework and writing help from certified teachers), and other student- and parent-friendly resources.

Sincerely,
Thyais L. Maxwell, Principal
Middle College at Bennett