



May 2020

Dear Parents of Middle School Students:

I hope you and your loved ones are staying safe and healthy during this challenging time. While we miss your children greatly, we recognize that their health and well-being, and the health and well-being of our staff, must come first.

I also want to thank you for your efforts to support your child's learning at home while you balance so many work and family demands. Remote learning will continue through the last day of the school year.

In keeping with a new grading policy adopted by the state school board on April 23, our grading guidance has changed since our last communication to you. Your child's third quarter report cards will show student progress through March 13, the last day prior to school closures. Students in grades 6-8 will receive a final course grade of Pass (PC19) or Withdraw (WC19) based on their learning for the school year.

- Teachers will provide year-end written feedback for students based on their learning during the fourth quarter and throughout the school year. Feedback will be used to help transition students into the next course for the 2020-2021 school year.
- Withdraw (WC19) does not mean the student failed the course and does not mean students need to repeat a grade. Withdraw (WC19) means there is a lack of evidence the student completed the concepts needed to be successful in the next course.
- **Students with a Withdraw (WC19) must work to improve the grade to a Pass (PC19).** Information about summer remote learning as an opportunity to improve from a Withdraw (WC19) is forthcoming.

Middle School Students Taking High School Courses

For middle school students taking high-school level courses, the final report card grade for the high-school courses will be based on work completed through March 13. Students will receive course credit for high school courses but, as in existing policy, the grade will not be counted in the Grade Point Average (GPA) calculation.

- A numeric grade is shown for students with grades 80 and above.
- A Pass (PC19) is shown for students who had a numeric grade of 60-79.
- A Withdraw (WC19) is shown for students who had a numeric grade below 60.
- **Students with a Withdraw (WC19) will receive a credit once they work to improve the grade to a Pass.**

Students in high school courses will receive two final semester grades for year-long courses, one Semester 1 grade and one Semester 2 grade. To determine final semester grades, the average of the two grades (Semester 1 and Semester 2) will replace the lower semester grade with the average. The higher semester grade will remain. Student grades can only improve during remote learning.

Please contact your child's school with any questions you may have. Again, thank you for your patience and perseverance. We appreciate you more than you'll ever know, and so look forward to seeing your children again when schools reopen.

Whitney Oakley, Ed.D.
Chief Academic Officer
Guilford County Schools

Enclosure: Frequently Asked Questions, Grades K-11