

FROM
THE OFFICE
OF THE
PRINCIPAL

Deena A. Hayes | Chairperson, Board of Education
Sharon L. Contreras, Ph.D. | Superintendent



April 13, 2020

Dear Parents:

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

Many of you have asked questions about how teachers will assign grades this spring. 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 as new information is received from the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction.

Here's what you need to know as a middle school parent:

- If your child still needs a computing device, please contact your principal immediately by calling the school's office by calling 336-605-3342.
- It is important for your child to log into Canvas for each of their classes at least 3 times per week.
- The last day of classroom instruction (March 13) has become the end of the third quarter.
- The third quarter grade will reflect student understanding and demonstration of concepts covered through March 13, the last day of instruction prior to school closure.
- Students who were failing a course at the end of the third quarter have the opportunity to improve to a Pass during the fourth quarter.
- For the fourth quarter, should schools remain closed, students will earn either a Pass (PC19) or Withdrawal (WC19), based on whether they submit assignments showing they understand the 5 – 7 major ideas in the core academic subjects.
- Students who do not show they understand the key ideas and who do not complete assignments between March 16 and the end of the school year, will receive a "withdrawal" for that course. This does not mean your child is being withdrawn from school. It does mean that your child will be given more time and support during the summer to master the key concepts and complete the assigned work prior to the start of the 2020-21 school year.

Please keep up the great work and continue encouraging your children to learn online and throughout the day at home. 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.

Sincerely,

Karen R. Ellis
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