

April 14, 2020

Dear Parents:

Welcome back from spring break! While we sincerely miss seeing your children, 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 share updates as new information is received from the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction.

Here's what you need to know as an elementary school parent:

- If your child still needs a computing device, please contact your principal immediately by calling the school's office.
- Student grades have already been recorded for the first two quarters of the school year (first semester).
- The last day of classroom instruction (March 13) has become the end of the third quarter.
 - For grade levels K-2, teachers will assign course grades 1, 2, 3 or 4.
 - For grade levels 3-5, teachers will assign the grade that reflects student work completed prior to March 13.
- For the fourth quarter, students will show they understand the 5 – 7 major ideas in the core academic subjects.
 - These assignments will be graded with a "Complete", "Incomplete", or "Missing".
 - Students who complete these assignments will receive a "Pass" for the fourth quarter in the event that schools do not reopen.
 - Students who do not show they understand the key ideas and do not complete each assignment between now and the end of the school year will be able to make up missed work virtually during the summer.
 - Students will be given more time and support during the summer to demonstrate understanding of the key concepts and complete the assigned work prior to the start of the 2020-21 academic year.

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

Brains are like muscles and need good food, good rest and daily exercise to grow and develop. If you need more assistance or ideas, please contact your child's teacher or check out the GCS website, www.gcsnc.com. Please know that we are always here to support you.

Sincerely,

Casey Lloyd, Principal
Alderman Elementary School