



Gardner High School

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April 13, 2020

Re: **GHS Remote Learning Plan**

Dear Gardner High School Students and Families:

As we continue to navigate these uncharted waters together, I want to thank everyone for their flexibility and patience through these trying times. I would also like to remind everyone of our plan for closing out third term grades and also to share additional information as we transition into our next phase of remote learning at Gardner High School. Our focus in this next phase will move us from enrichment activities to ones that will enhance and reinforce existing skills. This new information will also provide more specific direction through May 4th or beyond depending on the length of the school closure, therefore, consider this plan to be in place until further notice. Please review this information carefully.

Closing out Third Term grades:

- Third term grades will be based on work completed through March 13, which was the last day of classes before the school closure.
- Teachers have been reaching out to students about missing work from prior to March 13th and will be working with students to develop a plan to make up that work and/or improve their existing grades, which may involve alternative assignments.
- Your teachers will consider the enrichment work you have been completing since March 13th when calculating your third term grade and may reward your efforts with a positive impact on your grade. Your grade will not be negatively impacted if you haven't completed enrichment work to this point, but that will change with the next phase.
- Third term grades were closed on April 10th, but there is a two-week period between April 10th and April 24th for students to complete any missing work from prior to March 13th.
- Final Third Term grades will officially close on April 24th.

Our next phase/Fourth Term:

- Beginning this week, we will transition to the fourth term. Per guidelines from DESE (Department of Elementary and Secondary Education), this will involve student-directed and teacher-directed remote-learning activities that last approximately ½ of a typical school day.
- **Schoolwork/assignments will no longer be considered optional and will now be expected to be completed and submitted for review, feedback, and credit.**
- Teachers will provide work to students through a variety of methods including google classroom, assignments sent via email, virtual classes, etc. Students should check their school emails for posted assignments.

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- Teachers are available via email daily or during virtual office hours to answer any questions from students and parents.
- Fourth term will be graded as credit “C” or no credit “NC” and will be based on work completion and effort. Credit will be awarded as a 100% for a fourth term grade, and non-credit will receive a failing grade of 59% for a fourth term grade.
- Teachers will not give traditional grades for work that is completed but will give feedback to students as to whether they adequately completed the assignment and understood the material.
- Final grades will be calculated using grades from all four terms.
- Grade point averages will be calculated using first semester grades and not final grades for this school year only. (Please note that for seniors, this means class rank will be determined based on work completed through first semester this year, not from final grades.)
- There will be no final exams.

Student Expectations:

- Students should check their school email daily as email will be the primary means of communication between students and teachers. We encourage students to maintain contact with their teachers. This is very important for teachers to be able to monitor academic progress and the overall well-being of our students
- Students are expected to fully participate and complete class activities and assignments to the best of their ability. Remember, you will be receiving a grade of credit or no credit based on your effort and work completion.
- As always, students should review their assignments and create a schedule that helps them manage their schoolwork and complete assignments by the due dates set by teachers.
- All rules outlined in the Gardner Public School Handbook apply to remote learning as do all aspects of the District’s Responsible Use of Technology Policy.
- Remember, official transcripts only show final grades. The grade of credit “C” and no credit “NC” will not show on your final transcript. This is a great opportunity for students to give a real boost to their final grades for full year classes as well as second semester classes by putting forth an honest effort with completing the remote learning assignments given out by your teachers.

Students with Disabilities and English Learners:

- Gardner High School staff is committed to providing access to academic content and facilitating student progress for all students, including students with IEPs (Individualized Education Program) and English Learners.
- Special education teachers will develop Student Remote Learning Plans for students on IEPs to facilitate progress towards IEP goals.
- As per student’s IEPs, related services (ie. speech, counseling, etc.) will be provided per Student Remote Learning Plans. These services will include virtual activities that best align with students’ current services. Direct instruction/services via Google Hangouts, Zoom, or other live platform, will be delivered as necessary to meet students’ current IEP services.
- ESL teachers will continue providing services and utilizing various instructional practices with English Learners to ensure continued progress towards English language proficiency. Direct instruction via Google Hangouts, Zoom, or other live platform, will be delivered as necessary to meet students’ needs.
- Both special education and ESL teachers will work closely with general education teachers to plan lessons and provide appropriate accommodations and/or modifications as necessary.

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School Counselor Support:

- Our School Counselors are committed to providing social-emotional and academic support to our students. Although they are available by email throughout the day, they have also created virtual office hours during the times listed below. Students may log in to speak with their counselors with any questions, concerns or needs during these designated times or through any other mutually scheduled time.
 - Tuesday 1:00 - 2:00: Ms. Leblanc (Grade 8)
 - Wednesday 10:00 - 11:00: Ms. Mack (Grades 10-12 Last names A-J)
 - Wednesday 12:00 - 1:00: Ms. Chisholm (Grades 10-12 Last names K-Z)
 - Thursday 11:00 - 12:00: Ms. McCrillis (Grade 9)

Understand that as always, and particularly during this school closure, our number one priority at Gardner High School is the social-emotional well being of our students and staff. We are committed to providing positive connections while still doing our best to support academic purpose by engaging our students in meaningful learning activities that focus on key concepts and skills. We will continue to monitor this plan's implementation and effectiveness, and if necessary, we will adjust it to meet our needs and with any new directions from DESE. We fully recognize that these are difficult times for everyone. Please know that we are here for you, and we will assist in any way possible.

Thank you.

Paula Bolger, GHS Principal

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