



OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Friday, March 27, 2020

Dear YCSD Families and Staff,

Today marks the end of our second full week out of school due to COVID-19. I want to remind our families and staff that while Governor Northam has closed our school buildings for the year, the school year is not over. We will be moving forward in accordance with guidance from the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) and in collaboration with surrounding school divisions. There are steps we need to take together to ensure that:

- third quarter grades are completed,
- students who are on track to graduate in June can graduate on time,
- students are able to advance to the next grade level, and
- we continue to support student’s academic growth while they are away from their classrooms.

Third Quarter Grades

March 12 marked the last day of classroom instruction for the third quarter and will serve as the end of the third quarter. However, we recognize that the abrupt end of the third quarter interrupted opportunities for teachers and students to complete upcoming assignments, quizzes and tests.

Therefore, students will have the opportunity to improve their grades if they choose. These opportunities will vary by grade level and course enrollment and may include allowing missing work to be turned in, allowing for work to be redone for an improved grade, or providing an extra credit opportunity.

Teachers will be communicating those opportunities and methods for submitting work, based on grade level or course enrollment, to students by the end of day, Monday, March 30. Students will then have until April 8 to submit work to ensure their final third quarter grade is an accurate measure of their academic progress.

Graduation & Grade Promotion

While VDOE has waived certain regulations related to graduation requirements for the Class of 2020 and is requesting that the General Assembly amend laws that apply to diploma requirements, the state and still has the expectation that all students remain engaged in their education for the remainder of the school year.

Students will be required to participate in fourth quarter extended learning plans in order to graduate, receive credit for 2019-20 high school courses, or to advance to the next grade level. Plans will be in place to support students with disabilities to ensure equitable opportunities for advancement.

Student Academic Growth

Our next Extended Learning Plan will begin on April 13 after the conclusion of our scheduled spring break. It’s important to remember the VDOE is not asking school divisions to replicate the existing school day or year but provide opportunities for students to make academic progress and continue to learn and grow.

As such, our goal is to ensure all students have a variety of resources to help them engage in enriching learning experiences. We will be providing a timeline outlining what student learning will look like, for each school level, for the remainder of the school year. This information will be posted on the division website and shared with families as soon as it is available.

EMBRACE	•	ENGAGE	•	EMPOWER
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Mark J. Shafer
District 1

Brett Higginbotham
District 2

Laurel M. Garrelts
District 3

James E. Richardson
District 4

Sean P. Myatt
District 5

Answers to the most Frequently Asked Questions submitted through the askYCSD account have been posted to the division [website](#). To view this information, please click on any topic area to expand the FAQ page. Also, an Extended Learning website is under development that will include the information, tools and resources we will all need to ensure our students have every opportunity to learn, grow and succeed.

In conclusion, we appreciate your support in ensuring that learning continues during our time away from school. While parents and guardians have always played an important role in their children's learning, we know that our new learning environment makes this role even more critical. Our team remains committed to making sure students **and** families have the support they need in these challenging times.

Sincerely,



Victor Shandor, Ed.D.
Division Superintendent

