

Grading Information for Parents

June 1, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As we come to the end of the 2019-2020 school year, I wanted to share information with you on how your child's final grades are being calculated.

Simply put, grades earned during the COVID-19 school closures will be used only if they improve the student's yearlong grade that had been earned up to that point. The exception to this will be for the very small number of students who did not attempt any work whatsoever during the final Quarter. Examples are shown below:

- If a student's Quarter 4 grade is **higher** than the student's Quarters 1-3 average, then the student's Quarter 4 grade will be used in calculating the yearlong grade by averaging Quarters 1-4.
- If a student's Quarter 4 grade is **lower** than the student's Quarters 1-3 average, then the student's Quarter 4 grade becomes the average of Quarters 1-3 grade. Then the student's yearlong grade will be determined using the average of Quarters 1-4.
- If a student has made **absolutely no attempt** in a course, the student will earn a 0 for the Quarter 4 grade. Then the student's yearlong grade will be determined using the average of Quarters 1-4. However, if there were extenuating circumstances, families should contact the Principal for the ability to complete work over the summer.

This hold harmless approach is based on our belief that students, families, and teachers were thrust into this environment suddenly and without choice. To penalize a student for not quickly adapting to online learning does not align with the theme of compassion and grace promoted throughout the state and in Okaloosa County, especially at a time when families are facing many uncertainties.

It has been a challenging end to the school year to say the least. Overall, our teachers and students did a remarkable job moving to the online learning environment. One of the things that makes our teachers the best in Florida is the level of accountability to which they hold their students. In this unique instance, we chose to widen our lens a bit when assigning grades, and I understand that can be conflicting for some teachers and parents. Please know that if we were to begin a school year using an online model, grading practices would be much more traditional.

Final grades will be viewable online beginning June 5. If you have any questions about your child's specific grades, please contact your school.

Thank you for your patience and understanding throughout this last nine weeks.

Respectfully,

Marcus D. Chambers