

As we completed our first week of Remote Learning, MTHS collected feedback from our students and teachers. We have fielded many questions and concerns about grades. The Administration communicated to our faculty our initial understanding of grading practices that met ISBE recommendations, continued high academic standards, and didn't harm students academically. Upon reflection, MTHS Administration is revising our grading recommendations during our Remote Learning days.

MTHS made the determination that in addition to the Pass/Incomplete, we would allow students to work towards the letter grade they earn in a particular class. The initial guidance given by the state was interpreted as individual assignments/grades could not be entered that could lower a students' overall average with continued engagement. The goal is to not penalize any student for the school closure, but this goal does not mean a student's average can't fluctuate during remote learning. **We told students they needed to let their teacher know by Friday, April 3rd, if they wanted to take the grade for their class. We are changing that request to allow students to make the determination of whether to count a grade or not at the end of the semester.** We feel this change will benefit students and teachers.

We have given the teachers the autonomy to account for student work in a way that makes sense for their class during this time and to modify the curriculum to meet student needs. Teachers will continue to communicate with students about how their work will be assessed. Teachers will apply the principles below when students either return to school after April 30th or if there is continued closure.

- If the grade at the end of the semester is equal to or higher than the grade on March 13th, the student will have the option to receive the higher grade.
- If the grade at the end of the semester is lower than on March 13th, teachers will make a determination if the student had enough engagement (as determined by department teams) during Remote Learning to maintain his/her March 13th grade or determine if a pass is warranted.
- If the grade at the end of the semester is lower than a 64.5%, the student will receive an Incomplete for the course. The student will have an opportunity to complete the remaining work at a later date.
- If a student was failing on March 13th and does not participate in remote learning or complete the work necessary to raise his/her grade to passing, he/she will receive an Incomplete for the semester.
- If a student has missing work that was due prior to March 13th, he or she is still able to turn that work into the teacher.

In the event we return to school on May 1st, these principles will be used to account for work completed during Remote Learning.

We feel this change allows students to improve their scores if they wish but not be penalized if their scores go down. This change also eliminates the need for students to communicate with their teachers about whether they are taking the class for a letter grade or Pass.

If a student is not turning in work or is not responding to email, teachers will check in with the student by phone. If a teacher is unable to make contact with the student, the student's name will be given to the Guidance Counselors. The counseling team will divide these students and communicate with them and their families by phone and/or email.

We appreciate your understanding for the shift in practice as we are doing our best to interpret the guidance received from the State Board of Education and balance it with maintaining high expectations for our students. Our goal is to do what is best for our students and teachers.