



Spring 2020 Semester Grading Information

April 30, 2020

We hope this message finds you and your family healthy. Over the past seven weeks we have adjusted in our program, beginning first with providing review of academic material to maintain your learning. After spring break, we shifted to new learning and were waiting for direction from the state to guide how we would report that learning for semester grades.

Last week the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) provided Washington State school districts guidance concerning grading for Spring 2020 grades to accommodate the learning challenges students are facing during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In alignment with those guidelines Meridian High School will be issuing grades of A, B, C and I for those classes that were to be assigned a letter grade for Spring 2020 semester grades. This grading system:

- recognizes the work students completed during the first part of the semester,
- minimizes the impact the school building closure has on student grades and academic records,
- encourages students to continue to be engaged in their learning and connected with their teachers,
- provides teachers the ability to monitor and assess students' academic engagement.

Current Grade - A student's current grade is based on work turned in by March 13th will serve as a baseline, with no student starting lower than a C.

Maintaining Current Grade - To maintain that grade, students will need to stay engaged in their classes. Staying engaged means students are turning in assignments, connecting with teachers via email, phone, google classroom, or video conferencing (e.g. zoom meetings). Teachers will provide students with feedback of their academic work and check for understanding around essential learning standards connected to the class.

Improving Current Grade - Teachers still need time to clarify the criteria for improving the grades. This information will be shared next week.

"Incomplete" - A student who is not engaged in the work will earn an "Incomplete" and be expected to complete the necessary work to earn credit next school year. If an "Incomplete" is assigned, the standard(s) not met and steps to meet that standard(s) will be communicated by the teacher. Students assigned an "Incomplete" for a course will then be provided opportunities to meet those standards.

Difficult Circumstances Impacting Ability to Stay Engaged - If a student is unable to stay engaged because of current situations have created challenges to learning they need to contact their teacher and/or counselor immediately. MHS staff will work with the student and family to help eliminate barriers in the hope of being able to engage in the learning.

Seniors - The State Board of Education has provided additional flexibility for the Senior Class. A credit waiver is available on a case by case basis for students who are not able to engage in the work. This is to be used sparingly after all other options are exhausted. This waiver is only for credits earned from

taking classes. Please be aware that seniors cannot use the waiver for other graduations requirements (High School and Beyond Plan, Graduation Pathway, Washington State History). If a senior feels that current situations have created challenges to their learning, they need to contact their teacher and/or counselor immediately. MHS staff will work with the student and family to help eliminate barriers in the hope of being able to engage in the learning.

Some of our students are participating in programs that involve other educational institutions.

- Students who are participating in **College in the High School courses** will receive specific information from their teachers as those courses have expectations connected to Everett Community College.
- Students participating in the **NCTA skills center** or **Running Start** programs need to complete the work expected of their programs. Please contact MHS staff if you have concerns so staff can work with student/family and NCTA or the college to provide necessary support.

As you progress on your work over the remaining weeks of school it is important that you continue to communicate with us. Whether you are struggling to understand directions, having trouble getting the answer, or situations come up that impact your ability to access or complete the work, let us know. We want you to be successful. We want to help you with directions, understanding material or helping you get needed access to materials. Seniors, this is especially important for you.

Stay Connected. Stay Engaged. Communicate. While the building is closed, learning continues.