



Spring 2020 Grading Guidelines

Due to Emergency Pandemic Closure

Purpose:

This document has been created so that:

- Students know what is expected of them to maintain their grade and improve their grade.
- Students know what will happen if they don't complete the learning activities.
- Students know what to do if they are struggling to complete the work.
- Students know what will happen if they are given an "Incomplete" for a class at the end of the semester.

Background

Due to the current health crisis and resulting school closure, second semester grades for the 2019-20 school year will look different from what we are used to. Rather than maintaining the current grading method, an alternative grading system has been created in order to accommodate the learning challenges our students face during this unprecedented time. Many of our students are facing food scarcity, instability, social isolation, and lack of access to technology.

On May 1st, Meridian HS issued a document that shared all students would be given a baseline grade based on their pre-closure grade. This would be grades posted from work done that was assigned prior to March 16th. Grades were adjusted and students were awarded an A, B or C based on their percentage (A - 100% to 87%, B - 86.99% to 77%, C: 76.99% and below). A grading system has been developed that:

- Minimizes the negative impact of the school closure on students' academic records.
- Monitors and report students' academic engagement during the closure.
- Ensures students receive feedback and support on their progress toward meeting content standards

How Do I Maintain or Improve My Grade?

To maintain their baseline a grade a student will need to engage with their classes in the following ways:

- Complete the expected academic tasks at a level that shows an understanding of essential concepts at the student's appropriate level.
- Work with teachers to re-submit work or to complete alternate assignments if needed to show understanding of concepts.

All students must have an opportunity to improve their grades. Teachers will communicate options to students about what can be done to improve the baseline grade in their class. **Students will need to email their teacher whether or not they are going to do the work to improve their grade by 3pm on Thursday, May 27th.**

There may be some additional expectations for the AP classes and College in the HS classes. Please contact your teacher for more information.

What Happens When I Don't Compete Work?

Meridian HS staff care about their students and will use a number of different communication tools to communicate with students who have not engaged in learning activities and are at risk of getting an "Incomplete".

Skyward Progress Tracking – Skyward grades will provide students/parents an update on how the student is progressing in the class. An A, B, C grade will communicate the student is making satisfactory progress. If an "I" is posted this is communicating that the student is missing work at an acceptable level. **It is not a final grade.** Meridian HS staff are using this feature to communicate current progress and share their concern that the student may be at risk of not maintaining their baseline grade and be given an "Incomplete" at the end of the semester.

Teacher Contact – Teachers will use either email, phone calls, and/or conversations during office hours or class periods to share concerns regarding a student's progress.

Letters Home – Letters will also be sent home to parents when a student is recorded to have an "I" posted at the end of the week.

I am Struggling to Complete the Work, What Can I do?

Students who are unable or having difficulty in completing the assigned work need to contact the teacher(s) and their counselor and ask for help. A support plan for learning can be created. A plan may provide the following options depending on the situation and work remaining for the class. Possible options include:

- Provide additional academic support
- Provide access to technology
- Reduce assignment load
- Reduce work on assignment
- Offer different way to show learning
- Reduce classes to focus on to limit the number of Incomplete grades
- Increase communication efforts

What Happens If I get an Incomplete for Spring Semester?

It should not be a surprise if a student has an "I" on their final semester grade for a class. Teachers will be communicating student progress throughout the semester and teachers/staff will work with students to provide resources and support when needed.

However, if a student is not able to complete learning activities due to their current circumstances, they will be assigned an "Incomplete" at the end of the semester. A plan will be developed to give the student opportunities to complete the learning in the following school years.