



## SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE CHATHAMS

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CHATHAM HIGH SCHOOL  
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April 6, 2020

Dear Students and Parents,

I hope everyone is doing well and handling the challenges that we are facing as a school and community. The amount of online learning that we are experiencing is new for our staff and students. The uncertainty of the health and well-being of our students and families has been a concern as has the unknown timeline of how long school would be closed.

Our goal in supporting this online learning experience was to continue to provide instruction with an appropriate amount of content each week in each course; to have our teachers record any “live” instruction so that it can be posted for students who could not connect live; for teachers to have office hours so that students can ask questions of the teachers regarding material that has been assigned; and for teachers to post their weekly agenda so that students can organize their workweek in a way that fits their individual schedule. We believe that if these responsibilities are being met by our staff, all students who are actively engaged in what is asked of them will be successful in each of their classes.

We are aware that it has been stressful for some students to not know how online work would be graded and how it may impact their final grade. We purposely refrained from creating a policy up to this point as this is a new experience for everyone and we did not want to implement a practice prematurely that does not genuinely reflect what teachers and students are doing. We have had multiple discussions over the last three weeks and have determined that the following grading practice would be the most fair and accurate considering the different challenges we are navigating and the difference between the experience of learning in the classroom and learning completely online.

- Semester 2 grades in Genesis ending on March 13 will count towards 70% of the semester 2 grade.
- Grades earned online since March 16th will count towards 30% of the semester 2 grade. (30% reflects the reduction in instructional time and the restrictions of instructional strategies while online.)

It is expected that if a student actively engages in each course and completes the work that is assigned, their semester grade would only be equal to or improve from what it was on March 13.

If a student is not actively engaged in each course and does not complete the work assigned, a zero may be earned which will negatively affect their semester 2 grade.

Many of our students have worked very hard since September to earn their grades. While this semester has been unprecedented, we do believe that we have set up an appropriate calculation that honors our students' work and represents their academic achievement fairly. We also believe that this determination will encourage and support our students to remain active and continue their learning during this uncertain time.

Enjoy your week!

Mr. Groh