



## EAST RUTHERFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

### Office of the Superintendent of Schools

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Dear Parents/Guardians:

As the mandated school closure continues through to May 15, the district would like to provide some guidance and information regarding how your child will be assessed during the 4th Marking Period.

The overarching goal for our remote learning instruction has been to provide opportunities for students to engage in essential learning through the application of grade-level academic knowledge and skills aligned with the New Jersey Student Learning Standards. This goal continues to shape the district's planning and priorities as we continue to navigate this public health crisis.

As we have grown more accustomed to the virtual learning environment, teachers have provided ample opportunities for students to demonstrate their learning using formative assessments, which integrate options for students to act on feedback and demonstrate proficiency. Teachers have been flexible, supporting students in a variety of ways, including the use of paraprofessionals for students who require more intensive support. Teachers have also been diligent in documenting and memorializing communication with parents regarding submission of daily assignments. With all these measures in place, we are highly confident in moving forward with our grading plan which follows.

At the middle school level, we will proceed with our regular grading plan, which means, students will receive a letter grade for all course work completed online between March 16th and the end of the school year. Please note that the following were taken into consideration in deciding to maintain this grading system for the 4th Marking Period:

1. Flexibility for teachers to assess student performance through our various online platforms, as well as the flexibility afforded to students to complete outstanding assignments.
2. The levels of support as documented on our end, that has been offered to parents and students.
3. Overall high student participation and engagement during the first month of remote learning.
4. Consideration of assigning pass/fail but deciding against such a grading plan as each student is presented with their own unique and differentiated circumstances during this time.

The students in Pre-K to 4th Grade will be assessed with standard-based indicators in conjunction with a teacher narrative section. The Standards-Based Performance Indicators are as follows:

- 4 = Exceeds Standard
- 3 = Achieves Standard
- 2 = Progressing Toward Standard
- 1 = Currently Below Grade Level Standard
- NG = Narrative in lieu of grade

Parents of students in Pre-k to 1st Grade will be asked to submit documentation of completed packets covering instruction from March 16th to May 1st, so that this work will be counted towards the 4th Marking Period. Teachers will communicate with parents specifically what portion of the distributed packets need to be submitted for review and how to do so.

As previously noted, district-wide, the teachers will ensure that your child is assessed appropriately while fully understanding that they are learning in a remote environment. Please know that it is our goal that no student who has made a fair and just attempt in completing work is negatively impacted due to the requirement that they learn remotely. However, in keeping fairness and balance in mind, and being reflective of our grading policy students who have not demonstrated the required effort and assistance to complete coursework will receive an incomplete. A student with an incomplete course shall result in the student making up this course work during the summer months via Educere or other online means as is determined by the Superintendent of Schools.

It is our hope that the above guidelines for the 4th Marking Period will provide some structure during this evolving crisis. Once again, thank you for all that you are doing for your children and for the manner in which you are collaborating with our teaching staff.

If you have any questions regarding your child's 4th Marking Period grades, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher.

Please be safe and healthy!

Sincerely yours,

*Giovanni A. Giancaspro*

Superintendent of Schools