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Parents and Students

You would have recently received the following information from Westwind School Division in regards to assessment:

The student mark as of **March 16, 2020**, will be used as a baseline mark for the student moving forward.

- A student's mark will improve if:
 - A student continues to turn in formative assignments.
 - The student maintains contact and engagement with the classroom/teacher.
 - Based on the teacher's professional judgment it should increase, the decision will be determined from a broad body of formative evidence.
- A student's mark will be maintained if:
 - They do not meet the requirements for it to be improved (see above)
- A student may only be assigned a failing grade if:
 - The student had a failing mark prior to the **March 16, 2020**, baseline.
 - The student turns in no additional formative assignments
 - No evidence of learning has been collected from the at-home learning environment
 - The teacher has evidence of multiple attempts to contact and engage the student throughout the remainder of the school year.
 - The teacher or school has evidence of multiple attempts to reach out and engage the parent.

*If possible, the teacher and principal should connect with the student and offer to award credit in a lower-level course so the student can still receive credits. For example, if a student was failing ELA 20-1, the student could be moved to ELA 20-2 and be given a passing grade and be awarded the credits.

PLEASE NOTE: Any decision to assign a student a failing grade may only be made after consultation with the principal, and the principal in consultation with mentor Assistant Superintendent.

So, in a nutshell a student's mark can improve, remain the same, or fail. This Covid-19 outbreak is not the students fault – they did not ask for this and the assessment criteria favors the student to help them make it through this semester.

I hope this clarification takes the stress of your student's progress and they learn for the sake of learning without worrying about a grade so much. Let me give you an example – these days when we are trying to figure out how to operate a camera or put together a piece of furniture from IKEA we might watch an instructional YouTube video or read a manual. In these examples, we are not worried about how we are graded (or judged) we are interested in figuring things out.

Students have a perfect opportunity now to learn for the pure sake of learning. Now having said this I hope all students are **trying to improve** – you have a perfect opportunity to do so. For students in grades 9-11, your grades will matter in regards to what courses you will be allowed to take next year (ie. 55% in English 10-1 probably means English 20-2 going forward) along with the knowledge to be successful in the next grade level course. Grade 12 students planning to move on to college or university need the background skills to be successful at the post- secondary level.

Unfortunately, there are some students who have not done anything so far. This could result in a failing grade and a waste of a great opportunity. Please continue to connect with your teachers, ask lots of questions, stay the course and be relentless!

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