

April 6th, 2020

From: Mr. J. Edwards

To: 12th-grade students in Mr. Edwards' Forensic Science classes

Re: Special guidelines for Seniors due to school closure

Hi Seniors,

Thank you for keeping in touch during this strange time. I understand that you have had many unanswered questions and concerns about how all of these temporary changes will impact you as you finish your time in High School. I want to be helpful and supportive to each of you, knowing that you have a unique set of needs in the midst of these unexpected circumstances.

I have been trying to communicate any new information with you as I receive it, and I appreciate your patience as we have been waiting for official decisions to be made by school and state leaders. In any case, I will continue to let you know important details as I determine how they impact our class and your responsibilities. There will still be some details (and maybe changes) to come, but we are now ready to move forward into the "online learning" phase of our class.

Last week, school and state leaders shared details about how current 12th-grade students' grades would be impacted by the current COVID-19 school closing. This information has been shared in pieces through media and rumors, but we now have specific details to rely on. Based on these latest updates, I have some specific announcements that are particularly important for 12th-grade students:

Some important updates for 12th-grade students in our class:

- **For students who did not present their individual "Famous/Important Case Research Presentation" before the school closing, please see the email Mr. Edwards sent you last week (sent on Wednesday, April 1st). Since this work is from 3rd quarter, it still needs to be submitted, as soon as possible. If you did not receive an email about this assignment but did not present before school closed, please contact Mr. Edwards right away for help.**
- **All 12th-grade students who were earning a "passing" grade (60% overall or above) based on work assigned as of March 13th will earn a final grade of "PASS" (P or PC19) for the course. As long as you have submitted all work for our class from 3rd quarter (*including your individual case presentation*) and Mr. Edwards has not contacted you to let you know otherwise, you can expect to see this final grade (P or PC19) to appear in PowerSchool and your High School transcript for this course.**
- **Since state and school leaders have already determined how final grades for Seniors in spring semester courses will be determined, content and work assigned during the "online learning" phase of the course (April 13th – May 15th) will not be used to determine a 12th-grade student's final grade. Therefore, Seniors may *choose* how they would like to participate in the course during this time. Seniors will remain enrolled in school and our class. Mr. Edwards will continue to make information and assignments available to all 12th-grade students, and will provide feedback for any student who chooses to continue learning. All students are encouraged and welcome to continue participating in our class, regardless of how it may or may not impact their numerical grades.**
- **Since the ongoing "crime novel" reading assignment would have been included in students' 4th quarter grade, it will not be expected of Seniors in order to receive a "passing grade" for the course. However, as extra evidence of satisfactory participation in the course, *12th-grade students are still encouraged to submit evidence of their reading.* (More details to be shared**

soon.) 12th-grade students who have completed their reading and choose to continue participating in our class may choose whether or not they would like to complete the upcoming “crime novel book trailers” video assignment. Whether they complete this 4th quarter assignment or not, their final grade will not be penalized.

- The “online learning” phase of our class will begin on Monday, April 13th. Please see Mr. Edwards’ class website for ongoing updates and details for this new version of our course. If you are a Senior who is considering continuing to participate in our class, please read the additional letter Mr. Edwards has posted for other Forensic Science students about “online learning” (posted on the same webpage as this letter).
- No details have been shared with teachers regarding 12th-grade students’ attendance and expectations when (if) school reopens after May 15th. Since Forensic Science includes a “teacher-made final exam,” we are still waiting for directions from state and school leaders as to whether or not this final exam will still be expected.
- If students have any questions or concerns about these updates, please contact Mr. Edwards via email or Remind.

Mr. Edwards will continue to provide learning opportunities, content, and assignments for students who participate in the “online learning” phase of our course, between April 13th and May 15th. All students are encouraged to use this unexpected unstructured time to take greater ownership of their own learning and engage in ideas that are valuable and interesting. The online activities that I will provide will include direct instruction, videos, readings, interactive online tools, independent research, and opportunities for students to consider and share their own ideas and perspectives. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to participate in our class, even if it might not have an impact on their final grade or GPA. I will also work to provide direct feedback to students so they can understand the strengths and weaknesses of their learning in this new format.

Students can also choose to continue selecting optional independent assignments from the ideas I previously shared on this same webpage (letter posted on our class website, March 18th). All of these are opportunities for students to continue learning, even outside of the formal structure of teacher’s assignments and instructions.

If parents or students have any questions or concerns while we are away from school, please contact Mr. Edwards via email or Remind.

Stay home, stay safe, stay positive!

- Mr. Josh Edwards