

**May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

**From: Mr. J. Edwards**

**To: Students in Mr. Edwards' Science classes at HHS, and their families**

**Re: Changes and policies for final grades for spring semester 2020, due to the impacts of school closures and COVID-19**

Hello students and families,

State and school leaders are now in the process of releasing final updates and clarifications for how students will receive grades for the current semester, due to the impacts of school closures and COVID-19. While there are still questions to be answered and some final details to be communicated, we are ready to move forward sharing and implementing these policies.

*First*, a few important updates about how our class will continue for the last few weeks of the school year: There will be no state or teacher-made final exams this semester. That means that our class will not have a final exam of any sort. (Until now, this had not been officially announced by state and school leaders.) Instead, we will continue the "online learning" phase of our class. You should continue checking for updates and regular materials and assignments on our class Google Classroom in order to continue your learning in the best way you are able. Stay engaged! Keep learning!

*Second*, grading updates and guidelines have finally been released to teachers. Mr. Edwards will follow those guidelines and HHS policies to implement them in the best way possible for students in our class. Important aspects of these updated policies for spring semester 2020 are listed below:

- All students currently in grades 9-11 will have the option to choose either a "pass" ("PC19") or a numeric grade for their final grade for our class. ("Pass" will not count toward the calculation of your GPA, but numeric grades will if that option is selected.) Since our class is an honors-level elective which can count for extra weight in GPA calculations, I expect that most students will choose the "numeric grade" option.
- All Seniors in our class will receive a final grade of "pass" ("PC19"); there is no option available for graduating 12th-graders to choose a numeric grade instead.
- Mr. Edwards has already posted your up-to-date 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter numeric grade in PowerSchool. (See your updated *overall* current average.) This 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter average (based on work from the beginning of the semester through March 13<sup>th</sup>) will count as your final numeric grade for our class.
- If you choose the numeric grade option, you have the chance to complete missing work from before school closed or possibly use work from the "online learning" phase of our class to improve this numeric grade. If you have questions about this, or are interested in improving that grade to the next higher letter grade, please contact Mr. Edwards via email.
- There are some more specific guidelines that will apply to any situation where a student would like to work to improve their posted numeric grade, but that will be discussed and implemented on a case-by-case basis for our class, following the guidelines provided by school and district leaders.

At this time, students do not need to take any action if they would like to opt for the final grade of "pass" ("PC-19") OR they are already satisfied with the posted numeric grade shown in PowerSchool for 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter (and the final grade for the course overall). Our school will soon share more details about how exactly to go about formally requesting the "pass" or numeric grade option for each of your classes. (This will need to be in writing, from parents or guardians, and might be a different choice from course to course.)

The only action needed now for our class is for students and families to contact Mr. Edwards with any questions or concerns about how these final grading policies will impact our class, or if you are interested in improving the numeric grade you see currently posted in PowerSchool. *Mr. Edwards hopes to hear from students with questions or concerns by the end of this week.*

Continued updates and class materials will be available on our class Google Classroom. Contact Mr. Edwards with questions or concerns via email, Remind, or during virtual "office hours." Please continue to stay engaged and keep learning.

*Stay home, stay safe, stay positive!*

- Mr. Josh Edwards