

Westmoreland Central School District

Modified Grading Policy due to COVID-19 Pandemic

April 2020

Purpose

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic and its interruption to the 2019-2020 school year, the Westmoreland Central School District recognizes that during these unprecedented times, on-going learning is essential. In order to ensure equity in our students opportunities and outcomes, the District has adopted modified grading policies to accommodate for adjustments due to homebound instruction.

Modified Grading Policy for Grades Kindergarten through Sixth

Modification of Marking Periods

- Grades kindergarten through two
 - Marking periods one and two will remain as recorded
 - Marking periods three and four will be adjusted to reflect the timeline between the established school year and the COVID-19 quarantine as follows:
 - Marking period three will run from January 27, 2020 - March 13, 2020
 - Marking period four will run from March 16, 2020 - June 26, 2020
- Grades three through six
 - Marking periods one through four will remain as established at the beginning of the school year
 - Marking periods five and six will be combined and run from March 16, 2020 - June 26, 2020
 - *Please note that the first day of COVID-19 quarantine was the same date as the first day of the established fifth marking period, but due to educational adjustments needed for homebound instruction, the District made the decision to combine the marking periods into one.*

Adjustments of Grading Protocol

- Grades kindergarten through 2; English language arts (ELA) and mathematics
- Grades three through six; English language arts (ELA), mathematics, and science
 - Marking periods prior to the COVID-19 quarantine will remain graded as is
 - For the final marking period teachers will use a proficiency scale rating to record a students progress on priority standards using the following rating scale:
 - C - consistently demonstrates evidence of grade-level standard
 - P - progressing toward meeting grade-level standard
 - N - not demonstrating evidence of grade-level standard
 - *Please note that this proficiency scale is meant to inform parents and teachers of the following grade level as to proficiencies and deficiencies in standardized content of every*

child so as to accommodate and provide support for students for the onset of the 2020-2021 school year

- Grades kindergarten through six; special areas (art, music, coding, PE, technology)
 - The district recognizes the importance of these areas in every child’s development and fully supports them, but also recognizes the extraordinary circumstances placed on parents due to homebound instruction. These areas should be supported and used as student enrichment throughout the school year.
 - Teachers will not be providing a grade for special areas for the final marking period during the 2019-2020 school year

Communication

- Grades kindergarten through six will provide parent feedback for marking periods three and four during virtual parent conferences to be scheduled during the timeframe of May 26, 2020 - June 5, 2020.

Final Averages

- Final averages will not be calculated for grades kindergarten through six.

Modified Grading Policy for Grades Seven through Eight

Modification of Marking Periods

- Marking periods one through four will remain as established at the beginning of the school year
- Marking periods five and six will be combined and run from March 16, 2020 - June 26, 2020
- *Please note that the first day of COVID-19 quarantine was the same date as the first day of the established fifth marking period, but due to educational adjustments needed for homebound instruction, the District made the decision to combine the marking periods into one.*

Adjustments of Grading Protocol

- Core subjects; ELA, mathematics, social studies, science, and world language
 - Marking periods prior to the COVID-19 quarantine will remain graded as is
 - For the final marking period teachers will continue to use the same grading policies as they have throughout the year with the addition of the following procedures:
 - No penalties for late work
 - “Do no harm” participation model (*This type of model supports and rewards student participation but does not penalize those students who do not have the resources to adapt to or be present for homebound instruction.*)
 - Eighth grade honors Regents Algebra and Living Environment students will be graded as per the modified grading policy for grades nine through twelve and receive Regents Exam exemption credit as per NYSED guidance

- Special areas (art, music, coding, PE, technology, health)
 - Marking periods prior to the COVID-19 quarantine will remain graded as is
 - For the final marking period, teachers will use grading bands to represent progress toward meeting the grade-level standards as follows:
 - consistently demonstrates evidence of grade-level standard = 100 pt average
 - progressing toward meeting grade-level standard = 84 pt average
 - not demonstrating evidence of grade-level standard = 64 pt average

Final Averages

- Final averages for full year courses during the 2019-2020 school year will be calculated as follows:
 - $(MP1 + MP2 + MP3 + MP4 + \text{combined MP5\&6}) / 5 = 90\%$ of overall average
 - Midterm = 10% of final average
 - Final exam will be optional per teacher. Any final exam grades will be averaged in with the combined 5/6 marking period.

Communication

- Teachers will continue to communicate with parents and students as usual, increasing communication for those students struggling with homebound instruction.
- Progress reports will be available on the District's SchoolTool website for parents on May 8, 2020
- End of the year grades will be also be available through the District's SchoolTool website on June 26, 2020

Modified Grading Policy for Grades Nine through Twelve

Modification of Marking Periods

- Marking periods one through four will remain as established at the beginning of the school year
- Marking periods five and six will be combined and run from March 16, 2020 - June 26, 2020
- *Please note that the first day of COVID-19 quarantine was the same date as the first day of the established fifth marking period, but due to educational adjustments needed for homebound instruction, the District made the decision to combine the marking periods into one.*

Adjustments of Grading Protocol

- All courses will continue to grade as per normal district policy with the addition of the following procedures:
 - No penalties for late work
 - "Do no harm" participation model (*This type of model supports and rewards student participation but does not penalize those students who do not have the resources to adapt to or be present for homebound instruction.*)

- Advanced Placement and Dual-Credit Mohawk Valley Community College Courses
 - Both the College Board and Mohawk Valley Community College have provided guidance on the grading of courses and left the final decision to local districts
 - All Advanced Placement and Dual-Credit courses will use the same grading policy as outlined here for grades nine through twelve

Communication

- Teachers will continue to communicate with parents and students as usual, increasing communication for those students struggling with homebound instruction.
- Progress reports will be available on the District's SchoolTool website for parents on May 8, 2020
- End of the year grades will be also be available through the District's SchoolTool website on June 26, 2020

Final Averages

- Final averages for full year courses during the 2019-2020 school year will be calculated as follows:
 - $(MP1 + MP2 + MP3 + MP4 + \text{combined } MP5\&6) / 5 = 90\%$ of overall average
 - Midterm = 10% of final average
 - Final exam will be optional per teacher. Any final exam grades will be averaged in with the combined 5/6 marking period.
- Final averages for spring semestered courses during the 2019-2020 school year will be calculated as follows:
 - $(MP1 + \text{combined } MP2\&3) / 2 = 90\%$ of overall average
 - Midterm = 10% of final average
 - Final exam will be optional per teacher. Any final exam grades will be averaged in with the combined 5/6 marking period.

Retaking of Exempted Regents Exams

- Any students who has been granted Regents Exam exemption credit may NOT retake the same exam at a later date for the purposes of replacing the final marking period or final exam grade. However, they MAY retake the exempted Regents Exam for transcript purposes.