



# North Syracuse Central School District

"BRIGHTER TOGETHER"

**Daniel D. Bowles**  
Superintendent of Schools  
[www.nscsd.org](http://www.nscsd.org)

April 17, 2020

Dear NSCSD Parents and Guardians:

As you may be aware, Governor Cuomo has extended the school closure through May 15. In response to this extension, I would like to update you on the final marking period grading for grades K-4 and 5-12.

**Grades K-4.** Trimester 3 started on March 21. During the period of school closure, teachers will continue instruction using a distance learning model. The expectation is that students will be engaged and moving forward in the curriculum. Given the unique nature of distance learning, teachers will continue to assess students using online learning programs, interactive lessons and video conferencing platforms. While students will not be penalized for missing assignments or assessments, it is imperative that they fully engage with virtual learning in order to minimize gaps in their education. Although traditional "grades" will not be given in the third trimester, teachers will be providing feedback on the following:

**Student Engagement:**

- **Consistent:** Student consistently completes online assignments.
- **Inconsistent:** Student inconsistently completes online assignments.
- **Not Engaged:** Student has not completed online assignments.

**Student Progress:**

- Teachers will provide a narrative overview of what was taught as well as individual evidence of student learning.

**Grades 5-12.** Marking Period 4 started on April 15. During the period of school closure, teachers will continue instruction using a distance learning model. The expectation is that students will be engaged and moving forward in the curriculum. Given the unique nature of distance learning, secondary students will be receiving a pass/fail grade for each course during the period of school closure. The focus at this time is not numerical grading but providing instruction and feedback to further student learning. To this end, teachers will be assessing students and providing feedback using the following comments:

- **Complete/Meeting Standard:** Student has completed learning activities and demonstrated proficiency.
- **Complete/Approaching Standard:** Student has completed the learning activities but not demonstrated proficiency.
- **Incomplete:** Student has not fully completed the learning activities.
- **Missing:** Student has not engaged in the assigned learning activities.

The weighting of the four marking periods, final grades, and GPA will be determined once we know the extent of the closure. Parents will be updated accordingly. All 20-week courses scheduled for the second semester will be pass/fail.

I encourage all students to complete class assignments and learning tasks. It is important students fully engage, as the New York State Education Department requires students to demonstrate learning and progress in curriculum standards to pass a course and be awarded credit in credit-bearing courses. This expectation has not changed during the closure. Students who are not engaged in learning and meeting course objectives may jeopardize earning course credit.

Parents who are having difficulty accessing online materials are encouraged to contact the teacher and building principal. As a District, we are committed to providing all students access to curriculum and learning materials and we will continue to make every effort to support our students and parents.

I kindly appreciate your patience and unwavering support during this unprecedented challenge. I will continue to communicate as information becomes available.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel D. Bowles". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Daniel D. Bowles  
Superintendent of Schools