



Mountain Brook
S C H O O L S

April 2, 2020

MBS Family,

Much thought has been given to how we should approach grading when we transition to eLearning. We have settled on knowing that people are more important than numbers and how we approach our students will be more important than any process we implement. We know that a student's grades should not suffer or decrease due to any challenges of virtual learning.

The impact of the global pandemic is creating transitions for students, as well as teachers. With those key factors in mind, we need to do everything we can to make sure we extend learning, best assess how our students master the essential standards, and love and support our students through this process.

Teachers are instructed to grade according to their current and familiar practices focusing only on essential standards. Semester grades will be determined based on an average of the third and fourth 9-week grading periods. Semester averages will not fall below the student's 3rd 9-weeks average, nor will semester exams be administered.

If a student failed a third 9-weeks class, teachers will use discretion in creating opportunities for credit recovery. Our teachers are exceptional professionals who are well-equipped to support our students who did not successfully complete third 9-weeks work. This current grading period is an opportunity for teachers to help students extend and improve their learning.

We believe it is our school system's obligation to continue providing an effective, challenging, and engaging education for every one of our students until the school year's conclusion on May 21. It is imperative that we prepare our students for the next grade level or, for our seniors, their next life adventure. With the overwhelming majority of our 2020 graduates destined for college, Mountain Brook Schools remains dedicated to equipping them for that next step. This has always been a community school system and now, more than ever, our community needs to support our students as they near the finish.

Our teachers are keeping student learning, well-being, and success at the center of their decisions. As one of our teachers stated, our students will remember this period of time because teachers prioritized connectedness and caring more than the academic lessons they taught.

Amid these unsettling circumstances, we want our students and community to know we did all we could to foster learning with compassion and care.

Sincerely,

Dicky Barlow
Superintendent
Mountain Brook Schools