

April 28, 2020

Dear JCS Students/Parents,

We hope this letter finds your family healthy and strong. At this point, Governor Cuomo has schools in NYS closed through May 15th. We are assuming that the Governor will extend the closure through the remainder of the school year. Therefore, we want to move forward with a plan for grading students during the 4th quarter. The plan that is laid out below will be used even if we do happen to come back to school at some point this spring.

We recognize that this is a very unusual and challenging time for students and their families. Moving forward with our plan for the 4th quarter, our goal at JCS is to consider the unsettling and difficult circumstances that students are working under and to reward, not penalize students for their work and effort during this time. Some curriculum topics/skills may not be able to be covered as thoroughly as necessary during remote learning. Please be assured that upon the return to school, we will assess and fill in any gaps in instruction.

Students in grades PreK-2 will be graded for the 4th quarter by using standardized scoring as well as a narrative from the teacher that focuses on specific student skills. Many areas of the PreK-6 report cards may be marked "not applicable" (NA) due to skills that may not be covered or observed.

Students in grades 3-12 will be graded for the 4th quarter using a similar method to what we use during the regular school year. Teachers will assign work and grade accordingly. Teachers have been asked to have fewer assignments that will be graded and allow more flexibility during this time. If students do not participate during the 4th quarter, they may be asked to complete assignments in order to receive a final grade. At the end of the 4th quarter, students will be given a grade which will include their 4th quarter average, as well as the average of their first 3 quarters in each subject. This method of grading will continue to allow parents to utilize School Tool as a way of monitoring their student's progress.

As we move through the 4th quarter, it will be critical for students to communicate with their teachers. Please contact your child's teacher(s) for clarification about grading. If additional clarification is needed, contact Mrs. Flanagan or Mr. Markwica at (518) 251-2921.

Again, we realize that this is a very difficult time for families. This is the reason we are creating a method to reward students for their efforts, and not penalize them for circumstances that are beyond their control. We are all in this together, and we'll get through this together.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Heather Flanagan  
Building Principal

Mr. Michael Markwica  
Superintendent