

Dear Cornerstone Families,

On the next page is the state grading policy divided into the relevant grade levels. As is probably obvious to you, this changes the way that CCA had originally hoped to approach grading for the year. The original intent behind our grading policy was to keep students engaged in their education, and to provide parents feedback on the relevant progress of their students. I think it is important to emphasize that this is not going to change. Our teachers will continue to work to provide engaging activities via distance learning, and will provide feedback to parents on a weekly basis.

Our mission at Cornerstone remains to provide every student with a rigorous education. We believe this mission to be important because we believe that education will be one of the most important tools that students will have as they move into life beyond school. In uncertain times such as these this belief is thrown into stark relief. The impact of the COVID-19 virus is likely to have an impact on the education of students for years to come. It is our greatest hope that our community will continue to urge our students to engage meaningfully in their education so that they will be some of the most prepared graduates to walk out of North Carolina schools.

I write all this to emphasize that we want to make sure that our students and families do not get distracted by grading policies regardless of how well intentioned they may be. We want to make sure that our students stay engaged in education for the sake of the learning that is embedded within it. By focusing our staff on providing engaging activities, and our students engaging in the learning process, we hope that we will come closer to the ideal realization that learning can be its own reward. As a school of leadership and character, we often remark that true character and leadership is revealed in the moments when nobody is watching. I hope that our entire community can demonstrate its character and leadership during this time when we are separated.

I have often signed off my emails thanking parents for their patience and commitment. I continue to praise our families for their patience with our staff as we move through this difficult time, and their commitment not only to Cornerstone but also to their child's education. It is without any exaggeration that I say that our school community is both remarkable, and second to none in North Carolina.

Joe Caraher

Key Terms:

- **PC19** = Pass COVID-19. This indicates that a student has met the requisite standards to pass the course during the duration of the 2019-2020 school year.
- **WC19** = Withdrawal COVID-19. This indicates that the student has not mastered the requisite standards to have earned credit for the course for the 2019-2020 school year. It is different from a failure as it carries different ramifications. It is a marker for us as students progress into the next school year.
- **EOY19 Report** = This is the report that will be provided to families of students in grades K-8 at the end of the school year. The format of this report is to be handled locally (at the school level). As we just received this policy on Thursday, we do not have this report created. It will be forthcoming.

FINAL GRADING GUIDANCE FOR 2019-2020			
<u>Graduating Seniors (12th)</u>	<u>Grades 9 - 11</u>	<u>Middle School</u>	<u>Elementary</u>
<p><i>**The state has changed nothing for our graduating seniors. The policy for these students remains the same**</i></p> <p>Stored Senior grades from the 1st Semester will count towards credit and GPA.</p> <p>For 2nd Semester, Seniors who earned a passing grade in their "running F1" as of March 13 will earn a passing grade of PC19 for semester 2.</p> <p>Seniors who have earned a</p>	<p>Teachers will continue to provide work to students via Google Classroom as before.</p> <p>For each class, students may choose from one of three options:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. PC19/WC19 - Students may select to have their classes be recorded as one of these designations for the year. 2. Numeric grade. 3. PC19/WC19 for the 2nd semester. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students will receive either a PC19 or WC19 for their final grade at the end of the year. ● All electives will be designated as PC19 ● Teachers will continue to provide work through Google Classroom on a weekly basis as before. ● If a student's final grade as of 3/13 is passing, they will receive a PC19 for the year. It does not matter what happens after that date, as the state has said that the students will be held 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students will receive no final grades for any course. ● Teachers will continue to provide work through Google Classroom on a weekly basis as before. ● Teachers will continue to provide weekly feedback through until June 1 ● Students will receive an end of the year final report which will document strengths and weaknesses.

passing grade through remote learning will receive a PC19 for semester 2.

Students who did not earn a passing score before March 13 and have not improved to a passing score through remote learning will receive a WC19.

A grade of PC19 counts towards a graduation credit but does not affect GPA.
A grade of WC19 does not count towards a credit and does not affect GPA.

If a student selects (1) for each course

- There will be no be GPA impact for either a PC19 or WC19.
- A student receiving a PC19 will receive credit for course completion.
- A student that receives a WC19 will receive no credit for the course. This will result in having to retake the class.

If a student selects option (2):

- Their number grade will be calculated as either their Final Grade (F1) as of March 13th, or after completion of remote learning.
- If the numeric grade is selected it will be reflected in the GPA according to CCA policy.
- If a student receives a failing numeric grade their score will convert to a WC19. This will not impact their GPA, and they will need to retake the course.
- Students may revert to a PC19 or WC19 at any point.

If a student selects option (3):

harmless for grades after 3/13.

- If a student's final grade as of 3/13 was failing, they will be provided opportunities to get to the PC19 designation. When they achieve passing for the year, they will be designated as PC19, and will no longer receive any grades.
- Teachers will provide weekly feedback to parents and students.
- Students will receive an end of the year report documenting strengths and weaknesses
- **Students enrolled in the following class - Math I, Spanish I, or French I will follow the HS grading scale to the left.**

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They will receive their numeric grade for S1 as their EOY grade. • Their numeric grade for S1 will impact their GPA in accordance with CCA policy. • They will receive a full credit for the course if their S1 grade is passing. <p><i>*Important Note*</i> <i>If a student does not provide us guidance on what to select, they will be defaulted into the PC19/WC19 category.</i></p>		
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Miscellaneous and Notes

- Nothing has changed for our Graduating Seniors.
- The school is developing the method by which we will get our 9th - 11th students to verify how they want their grades to be recorded. Please pay attention to electronic communications regarding that moving forward.
- The last week that work will be provided to students will be May 25th. We want to reserve that last week for virtual celebrations of students.
- The EOY19 Report for students will be developed and sent electronically at the conclusion of the school year.
- Teachers in grades K-8 will not be entering grades into PowerSchool. It will not be the method by which they will be providing feedback.
- High School Teachers (and HS course for MS students) will still be using PowerSchool if parents have selected the grading option outlined above.
- If you have a child in Middle School that was not passing for the year as 3/13, your child's teachers will be in touch with you.