



South Park School District

April 24, 2020

South Park School District Families:

The transition from in-person learning to remote learning in schools and districts across the country has been underway for more than a month. I want to express my appreciation to our faculty and staff for their diligence in ensuring our students continue to receive valuable learning experiences in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic. Their creativity and flexibility have sparked new and innovative teaching methods outside the traditional classroom setting. I want to thank our students and families for their resilience and positivity as, together, we are learning how to adapt to these challenging circumstances.

Our administrative team has worked with our teaching staff to carefully consider our grading guidelines for the fourth grading period of the 2019-2020 school year. Our team believes that a district-wide approach would not be in the best educational interest of our students. Therefore, our building administrators have developed these specific guidelines for the fourth grading period.

Kindergarten

We will focus on learning, not on grading. While our curriculum remains our roadmap, teachers have been encouraged to focus on the most essential elements of the curriculum and select content and assignments that are conducive to a remote learning environment. We have been doing our best to provide parents with educational materials to facilitate what has been taught this year as well as new concepts that we will again review for the start of the next school year to ensure students have acquired the skills necessary to succeed. If you still need the learning packets, please contact the elementary center office to arrange the distribution of the materials.

First Grade through Eighth Grade

South Park Elementary Center and South Park Middle School continue to utilize remote learning days for the duration of the academic school year. We recognize the need to balance this with the challenges of online learning for our students, families, and faculty. Therefore, South Park Elementary Center and South Park Middle School are implementing a pass/fail grading scale for the fourth grading period for students in first grade through eighth grade. The passing threshold will remain at 65%. Students are still expected to engage in all of their assignments. However, we hope this decision alleviates some of the anxiety that may come with online learning for our youngest students.



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High School Students

In order to recognize the efforts and accomplishments of all of our high school students throughout this academic year and to ensure they are equipped with the education and skills they need for their post-secondary goals, South Park High School will maintain its existing percentage-based grading system for the fourth grading period. We fully understand there are challenges to virtual teaching and learning, and our faculty members have been adjusting expectations for both performance and productivity. By keeping our current grading system and adjusting expectations, our students will continue to work through the curriculum for each of their courses while being held accountable for that work.

Again, those guidelines are in effect for the *fourth grading period* of the 2019-2020 school year.

Report cards for the third grading period will be available in Home Access Center by the end of the day on Friday, April 24, 2020.

We also ask middle school and high school parents/guardians to remind your children to check their school emails daily. This is one of the main ways our teachers communicate with their students.

I encourage families who have questions about these guidelines to email their building principal. And please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher(s) or principal if you need help or support throughout the remainder of the school year.

Stay safe and healthy!

Sincerely,

Wayne P. Gdovic
Superintendent of Schools
South Park School District