

4th Quarter Grading Policies

Created in a collaborative effort by the WHS English, History, and Health departments
Agreed upon by WHS Teachers & Staff 04/09/2020

Lens:

Do no harm to students, provide full access and equity for all students, provide relevant learning opportunities, and focus on what really matters. We won't be able to cover the same amount of material as normal.

Rationale:

The university systems (both UC and CSU) are willing to accept credit/no credit grades in lieu of letter grades for all courses, including A–G courses, completed in winter/ spring/ summer 2020 for all students. Grades of credit/no credit will not affect the UC or CSU calculations of GPA ("FAQs on Grading"). This applies to students 8th through 12th grade. Colleges will look at the spring semester 2020 grades, knowing that many districts moved to a credit/no credit feature and this will not be held against those students. The credit/no credit will not harm their GPA, but will count for A-G requirements ("FAQs on Grading").

According to the [FAQs on Grading and Graduation Requirements](#) from the California Department of Education (CDE), local education agencies (LEAs) may require work; however LEAs should use many considerations when doing so. The grading breakdown and policies the WHS staff agrees upon should do the absolute best in making these policies as equitable as possible. Furthermore, according to the guidelines, "LEAs should weigh their policies with the lens of equity and with the primary goal of first, doing no harm to students" ("FAQs on Grading"). The words "no harm" are key. The grading breakdown and rationale written in this document meet the goals set forth by the CDE.

4th Quarter Grading

Students continue to submit work for a grade. Teachers agree to grade student work as follows:

A = great work, exceeds expectations

B = decent work, above average

C = sloppy or quickly done work, average

Anything below a C would receive a grade of "pass" or "credit", because it is inequitable to fail a student at this time. According to the California Department of Education each district or LEA should, "ensure grading policies hold students harmless for their spring grades and the transition to distance learning."

The only circumstance in which a student could earn a grade of "no credit" would be if a student had previously earned an F in quarter 3, and then proceeded to complete no online work after April 20th. In this case, administering an "F" grade would be justified in that it would do no harm to the student. Instead, it would simply be a repetition of the grade which they had already earned.

Final grades should not be significantly lower than previously earned in the third quarter. **Exceptions to this include, but may not be limited to, students who have access/opportunities to participate in distance learning and choose not to do so or when lack of work completion is**

within their control. This is consistent with the CDE guidelines which indicate that students should be “held harmless” for their grades during distance learning.

Norms:

- WHS teachers agree to create separate 4th Q gradebooks. Should include the “enrichment” activities (as extra credit only) up until April 20th. After April 20th assignments should switch from extra credit to the above stated grading system. Extra credit assignments will not be the same amount of points as an assignment normally would have been. For example: If an assignment would have typically been 35 points, the student does not receive 35 extra credit points. They would receive a score of 5 extra credit points (or something small point wise).
- WHS teachers agree to post weekly assignments by noon each Monday and the assignments will be due by the following Sunday at midnight.
- All WHS teachers accept late work.
- Each teacher will agree to specific office hours, and will post those hours on Google Classroom.
- WHS teachers agree that students should not be working more than 3 hours a day, times 5 days a week on all school work. Distance learning requires time management that not all of our students have, and with tech issues, home and work requirements it will take them longer than normal to complete their work. In general, **we should be assigning less than we normally would.**
- Semester grades will be an average of 3rd and 4th quarter gradebooks. No running semester totals for 2020 Spring semester.
- Finals will be given, but not in the traditional way. WHS teachers will submit to Mr. Johnstone their plan of how to show what students have learned without a typical final, but some sort of project or alternative assessment. We agree to strive to ensure that any finals given will be equitable for all students.

Works Cited

“FAQs on Grading and Graduation Requirements.” *FAQs on Grading and Graduation Requirements - Health Services & School Nursing (CA Dept of Education)*, California Department of Education, 2020, www.cde.ca.gov/ls/he/hn/gradgraduationfaq.asp.