

West Irondequoit Central School District

9- 12 Grading Guidance

Frequently Asked Questions



Q. If my student is having trouble submitting assignments, what should we do?

A. Families can scan or take a picture of student work and submit to teachers via email, in addition to submitting assignments through Schoology, our learning platform. Please reach out directly to the classroom teacher with any questions or concerns.

Q. Why do some assignments receive a numeric grade and others don't?

A. Weekly Home Learning Tasks are listed in Infinite Campus and are coded as either: **An Assessment Task** (Included in the Grade Calculation) or as **an Assignment Task** (Not Included in the Grade Calculation).

Assignment tasks include things like practice math problems, checks for compliance (i.e.: did you read the assigned chapter, and did you answer the short comprehension or multiple-choice questions?) and Castle Learning Multiple Choice assignments. Think of these tasks as the kinds of things that might happen during classwork time within the classroom. They are important tasks in the learning journey, and sometimes students receive feedback, but they aren't typically graded.

Assessment tasks give teachers a sense of how students are progressing in learning the essential course standards, and how they can demonstrate that progress through written work or individualized responses. Feedback on these tasks is provided to students from the teacher, as well as a numeric score. In some cases, students may be able to resubmit the assessment task after they have applied feedback to increase their score.

Q. How will the 4th quarter grade be calculated?

A. 4th Quarter Grade calculations will reflect students' progress against identified learning targets/standards in each course. Assessment tasks will be scored, documented and used to generate the 4th quarter grade. These tasks are visible in the IC Portal.

Q. Are there final exams this year and will they impact a student's grade?

A. The only final exams that will be administered this year are for students who are enrolled in a Dual Enrollment program. Your child's DE Course Teacher will provide information about the required assessment, and how those scores will be used in the determination of the final grade. In addition, AP examinations will be available to students through the College Board. AP examinations are not factored into a student's grade. We have determined that for all other courses there will be no final exam.

Q. What is the difference between an Incomplete and a Failing Quarter Grade?

A. An Incomplete documents the lack of learning and completion of essential standards **required** for course credit. A failing 4th quarter grade demonstrates that a student has made progress on essential standards, and while not yet at a proficient level, they are on a learning trajectory for the required

standards. Students who receive a failing quarter grade may participate in Summer School or may face a delayed graduation.

Q. How will the Final Grade in a Full Year Course be calculated?

A. Final grades will be determined using a “Hold-Harmless” grading philosophy during this time of COVID-19. “Hold-Harmless” means that a student’s final grade may not be lower than the first semester grade. If a student’s achievement has been negatively impacted by the conditions of the closure, the 4Q score will not be used to calculate the final average, and the semester average will be used on the students report card and transcript. If a student has found success in meeting and exceeding the learning standards during this time, the 4Q numeric score will be used in the final grade calculation.

Q. How will the Final Grade in a 2nd Semester Course be calculated?

A. Students completed 6 weeks of instruction (out of 20) in a face to face environment. Interim reports were distributed to families on the Infinite Campus Portal during the week of March 9. Student numeric grades/scores for Q3 are visible in the IC portal. As instruction moved to a home learning environment, teachers use the first few weeks of the closure to provide review and remediation, so students missing 3Q assignments or not meeting standard prior could have an opportunity to make that work up. That work, in addition to graded assessments and assignment tasks from Q4 will be used to calculate the final course grade. Again, we will hold students harmless in calculating final semester-based course grades, so that no grade can be lower than their final 3Q average.

Q. If a Senior has an incomplete at the end of the year for a course, will that student be retained? Will they have to take summer school? Will they not be able to graduate?

A. An incomplete for a required course will delay graduation until the end of August because of the need for credit recovery. In addition, it may delay the ability for a student to walk the stage during the graduation ceremony. Decisions regarding the availability of credit recovery will be made on a case-by-case basis by collaborative conversations involving a team including: the student, parents, teacher(s), building administration and the School Counselor.

Many courses (core courses, physical education, health, world language, etc..) are considered graduation requirements yielding 22 credits needed for graduation. It is critical that students continue to do their best, stay connected to their schoolwork through their teachers, and reach out for help as it is needed. If you have any questions or concerns, please don’t hesitate to reach out to any member of the team.

Q. Will there be summer school credit recovery? Will there be summer school to close learning gaps?

A. As we await guidance from NYS, we are preparing for Summer Credit recovery and gap closures to occur in this home learning environment. If students need to complete assignments to clear an Incomplete, or if they need to reengage in essential units from a core course, we will have resources provisioned to meet their needs. We will continue to share updates about our summer programs as they become available.