



May 1, 2020

Dear JPS Families,

Thank you for partnering with us to ensure that your scholar's learning continues during these difficult times. As you know, on April 14, 2020, Governor Tate Reeves announced that all public schools would remain closed and that learning at home (LAH) would continue through the end of the 2019-2020 school year.

Given the Governor's announcement, the JPS Board of Trustees recently approved the District plan regarding grading for the fourth quarter and I am reaching out to share that plan with you at this time. With input from school administrators and teachers, district leaders developed this alternative grading plan while keeping our core value of equity in mind.

For all scholars in grades K-12, the fourth term grade will be the average of terms one, two, and three. The final grade for the year will then be calculated as normal. Scholars who have participated in LAH instruction and activities will receive a 100 for the fourth term instead of the average of the first three terms. This allows a scholar the opportunity to improve his/her final grade. (If the scholar does *not* complete the online LAH activities or does *not* turn in a completed learning packet, the scholar will still receive the average of terms one, two, and three as the fourth term grade. This ensures that the LAH activities can only *benefit* a scholar, and not create any penalty.) For Kindergarten scholars, this would be a "3 = Meeting Grade Level Expectations." For more information on grade/course-specific LAH assignments and/or packets (including due dates and submission procedures), please review the attached At-a-Glance flyer for elementary, middle, and high schools or visit the JPS LAH Resources Page at www.jackson.k12.ms.us/LearningAtHome.

Promotion/retention status for scholars in grades K-8 will be based on passing final grades in Reading, Language Arts, and Mathematics only. High school promotion shall be based upon each scholar's accumulation of earned course units (Carnegie units). For our graduates, details of our exciting plans to celebrate the Class of 2020 are being finalized and will be shared in the coming days.

I sincerely thank you for your patience and flexibility with the changes brought on by COVID-19, and I urge you to continue taking the necessary precautions to ensure our community's health and safety. Though we are doing so remotely, it remains our vision in JPS to prepare scholars to achieve globally, to contribute locally, and to be fulfilled individually.

Sincerely,

Errick L. Greene, Ed.D.
Superintendent

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ACADEMIC PROGRAM CHANGES

SY 2019-2020

ELEMENTARY

KINDERGARTEN

LEARNING-AT-HOME

- Learning-at-Home assignments are provided to students through online programming and district-created instructional packets.
- Teachers will provide virtual office hours via telephone and/or video conferencing, where possible, to provide instructional support to students. Parents are encouraged to access video recorded lessons and read-alouds on our district's website, Facebook page and Comcast cable channels 18 and 19.

GRADING

- Students enrolled prior to March 16, 2020, will earn a SATISFACTORY mark for Term 4 for completing all Learning-at-Home assignments in Reading, Language Arts, and Math.

PROMOTION / RETENTION

- Students must pass core objectives in Reading, Language Arts, and Mathematics for promotion. Retention of kindergarten students will be based on the consensus between the parent, teacher, and administrator. Performance data from the first three terms will be used to inform such decisions.
- Any student failing Reading, Language Arts and/or Math during the 2019-2020 school year (Terms 1-3), will be automatically placed in Tier II or Tier III at the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year.

ASSESSMENTS

- The Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (post-test) will not be administered.
- The English Language Proficiency Test (ELPT) will not be administered.

1st - 5th

LEARNING-AT-HOME

- Learning-at-Home assignments are provided to students through online programming and district-created instructional packets.
- Teachers will provide virtual office hours via telephone and/or video conferencing, where possible, to provide instructional support to students. Parents are encouraged to access video recorded lessons and read-alouds on our district's website, Facebook page and Comcast cable channels 18 and 19.

GRADING

- Students enrolled prior to March 16, 2020, will earn the grade of 100 for Term 4 for completing Learning-at-Home assignments in Reading, Language Arts, and Mathematics. Scholars with an average score of less than 70 in terms 1-3, must complete the Learning-at-Home assignments for the subject in which they have the failing score. The final grades will be calculated using the average of Semesters 1 and 2.
- A Semester 2 exam grade will not be computed as a part of the Semester 2 average.

PROMOTION / RETENTION

- Students must pass the State Core Curriculum and district objectives in Reading, Language Arts, and Mathematics with a grade of 70 or above in each subject for promotion.
- Any student failing Reading, Language Arts and/or Math during the 2019-2020 school year (Terms 1-3), will be automatically placed in Tier II or Tier III at the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year.

ASSESSMENTS

- The Mississippi Academic Assessment Program (MAAP) and MAAP-Alternate will not be administered
- The English Language Proficiency Test (ELPT) will not be administered.

LEARNING-AT-HOME

- Learning-at-Home assignments are provided to students through online programming and district-created instructional packets.
- Teachers will provide virtual office hours via telephone and/or video conferencing, where possible, to provide instructional support to students. Parents are encouraged to access video recorded lessons and read-alouds on our district's website, Facebook page and Comcast cable channels 18 and 19.

GRADING

- Students enrolled prior to March 16, 2020, will earn the grade of 100 for Term 4 for completing Learning-at-Home assignments in Reading, Language Arts, and Mathematics. Scholars with an average score of less than 60 in terms 1-3, must complete the Learning-at-Home assignments for the subject in which they have the failing score. The final grades will be calculated using the average of Semesters 1 and 2.
- Students enrolled prior to March 16, 2020, will earn the grade of 100 for term 4 in all **credited elective courses**. Additionally, students can earn up to 10 extra credit points by completing Learning-at-Home assignments in each elective class or course. The extra credit points will be applied to the lowest previous term grade. The final grades will be calculated using the average of Semesters 1 and 2.
- Students that do not submit Learning-at-Home assignments, will receive the average of terms 1-3 to obtain the Term 4 grade. The final grades will be calculated using the average of Semesters 1 and 2.
- A Semester 2 exam grade will not be computed as a part of the Semester 2 average.

PROMOTION / RETENTION

- Students must pass the State Core Curriculum and the district objectives in reading, language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies with a grade average of 60 or above for promotion.
- Any student failing ELA and/or Math during the 2019-2020 school year (Terms 1-3), will be automatically placed in Tier II or Tier III at the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year.

AWARDING OF CARNEGIE UNITS

- The Core Curriculum, which includes state and district objectives, requires a final grade of 60 in each subject before Carnegie units will be awarded.

ASSESSMENTS

- The Mississippi Academic Assessment Program (MAAP) and MAAP-Alternate will not be administered
- The English Language Proficiency Test (ELPT) will not be administered.

LEARNING-AT-HOME

- Learning-at-Home assignments are provided to students through district-created instructional packets and teacher-assigned lessons. Students **are not** required to complete both options for the same course for assigning of grades.
- Teachers will provide virtual office hours via telephone and/or video conferencing, where possible, to provide instructional support to students.

GRADING

- Students enrolled prior to March 16, 2020, will earn the grade of 100 for term 4 for completing Learning-at-Home assignments in **core courses** (English, Math, Science, History, and Foreign Language.) Scholars with an average score of less than 60 in Terms 1 -3 (or Term 3 in half-credit courses), are **strongly encouraged** to complete the Learning-at-Home assignments for the subject in which they have the failing score. The final grades will be calculated using the average of Semesters 1 and 2 for full-credit courses; and Terms 3 and 4 for half-credit courses.
- Students enrolled prior to March 16, 2020, will earn the grade of 100 for Term 4 in all **credit-bearing elective courses**. Additionally, students can earn up to 10 extra credit points by completing Learning-at-Home assignments in each elective class or course. The extra credit points will be applied to the lowest previous term grade. The final grades will be calculated using the average of Semesters 1 and 2 for full-credit courses; and Terms 3 and 4 for half-credit courses.
- Students that **do not submit Learning-at-Home assignments**, will receive the average of Terms 1-3 to obtain the Term 4 grade. The final grades will be calculated using the average of Semesters 1 and 2. Students in half-credit courses will receive their same grade from Term 3 as their Semester 2 grade, and will serve as their final grade.
- A Semester 2 exam grade will not be computed as a part of the Semester 2 average for full-year or semester courses.

PROMOTION / RETENTION

- Promotion shall be based upon each pupil's accumulation of earned course units (Carnegie units).
- Any student failing ELA and/or Math during the 2019-2020 school year (Terms 1-3), will be automatically placed in Tier II or Tier III at the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year.

AWARDING OF CARNEGIE UNITS

- The Core Curriculum, which includes state and district objectives, requires a final grade of 60 in each subject before carnegie units will be awarded. Students enrolled in Credit Recovery/Blended Learning courses should continue to complete assignments in Edgenuity.

DUAL CREDIT

- All dual credit courses are being taught online via Canvas. Students must complete their assignments online and meet the requirements outlined by the colleges to receive credit.

ASSESSMENTS

- Students will not be required to take and/or pass EOC state tests in order to meet graduation requirements.
 - ◇ Students enrolled in Algebra I, Biology, English II and/or U. S. History during the 2019 – 2020 school year and earns the Carnegie Unit credit, will not be required to take and/or pass the corresponding EOC subject area test(s) or meet one (1) of the options in lieu of passing the test(s) in order to meet the graduation requirements.
 - ◇ Students enrolled in school during the 2019 – 2020 school year as of March 16, 2020, that has passed the Algebra I, Biology, English II, and/or U.S. History course(s), but has not passed the corresponding EOC subject area test(s) or met one (1) of the options in lieu of passing the test(s), will be allowed to graduate, if all other state and local graduation requirements have been met. (re-testers)
 - ◇ Students currently enrolled in school in the 2019 – 2020 school year who earned a Carnegie Unit credit in Algebra I, Biology, English II or U.S. History in a school year prior to 2019 – 2020, but took the test as a first time test taker in the Fall 2019 or was planning to take the assessment as a first-time test taker in Spring 2020, will not be required to take and/or pass the EOC assessment or meet one (1) of the options in lieu of passing the assessment when school reconvenes.
- The Mississippi Academic Assessment Program (MAAP) and MAAP-Alternate will not be administered
- The English Language Proficiency Test (ELPT) will not be administered.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

- Students must earn the state's **minimum number** of Carnegie units to receive one of the high school diploma options. The Carnegie units earned must meet the required courses as outlined in Appendices A-1, A-2, A-3, and A-4 in the *Mississippi Public Accountability Standards, 2019*.