



SVGS Updates and Plan for the Remainder of the 2019-20 School Year

4/1/20

NOTE: This information references Augusta County Public School's current plan (as of 4/1/20) for continuity of learning and completing the year, aligns with plans for Staunton and Waynesboro City Schools, and follows guidelines from Blue Ridge Community College and James Madison University for dual enrollment courses. Augusta County Schools serves as the administrative and fiscal agent for SVGS.

GENERAL

1. ***Building Access:*** As expected, access to SVGS is highly limited to essential personnel only. However, we recognize the possible need for students to pick up materials, technology, hard copies, or other belongings. We will offer the opportunity for students to "grab and go" materials as needed by appointment. Students needing access to materials should contact me to set up a pick-up time in order for materials to be accessible and all pre-cautions to be taken. The governor's order does allow these exceptions for education.
2. ***Access to SVGS Staff:*** If you need to contact any SVGS staff member, please email if possible. You may also call the school at 540-245-5088 or 245-5002 (VCTC) and leave a message. Work at home options are in place so all staff are not consistently in the building.
3. ***Instruction:*** School divisions are not being asked to recreate the existing school day but to provide opportunities for students to learn important content not taught prior to March 13. Essential content is defined as concepts important for continued successful learning in future classes. Please refer to the "Continuity of Learning" section later in this document for more details.
4. ***Technology:*** SVGS students have routinely used technology throughout the year. However, we recognize internet access or screen time may be an issue with schools and other public areas now closed. Options for internet hotspots in the SVGS parking lot as well as homeschools will be made available. Materials and resources will be made available in paper copies when needed. Please contact Dr. Whitesell at whitesell@svgs.k12.va.us if students have issues accessing the internet or on-line resources.
5. ***Other Resources:*** The current situation resulting from the pandemic has likely affected all of us in some way. While SVGS is a community of learners, we also care about those in our larger community who maybe struggling and no longer have daily access to school and community resources. If you or others you know may be struggling with basic needs, health assistance, or other resources, please refer to the [school's website for COVID updates](#), contact Dr. Whitesell, or contact the student's homeschool.

CONTINUITY OF LEARNING & GRADING

1. **Course Completion:** In order to award high school credit, we must ensure that students have completed a majority of the standards, competencies, and objectives of each course. Teachers will identify essential content that is necessary for success in subsequent courses and develop learning modules to address this content. When possible, teachers will provide review for content offered after March 13 into the 2020-21 school year (i.e. Pre-Calculus). This will ensure that all students have equitable access to the opportunity to learn essential content that was not taught during the final quarter of the 2019-2020 school year due to the school closure.
2. **Learning Modules:** Learning modules will provide equitable access to all learners, including students with disabilities, English learners, students lacking access to high-speed Internet or devices. The primary source for these modules will be CANVAS in the same format students accessed course curriculum throughout the year. Students should continue to consider that their primary source for materials and contact their teacher with any questions. Hard copies of materials will be made for those with access issues and delivery of those materials will be coordinated individually.
3. **Communication:** Teachers will email and message students weekly through CANVAS regarding learning modules and other any important information. Teachers will contact any student not engaging in the learning modules or who has not otherwise not been in contact that week by phone to insure equitable access. There is expected to be some communication weekly between teachers and students.
4. **Grading:** Teachers will finalize second semester grades based on work given prior to March 13. **All make-up for work assigned prior to March 13 should be completed by April 6.** Teachers will send progress reports this week to students with significant missing work. Students and parents are again reminded and encouraged to check Infinite Campus regarding their status. Please contact teachers if you have any questions, have extenuating circumstances, or need an extension.

Students will receive teacher feedback on work submitted after March 13 but no grade will be assigned *except as requested (see the following)*.

**NOTE: All students have opportunity to improve the semester grade if they want their work after March 13 counted. Students should contact their teacher and indicate they wish to work to improve their grade. A student's semester grade may not be lowered for work after March 13.*

5. **Dual – Enrollment:** Course curriculum is based on guidance from the partnering college. For the remainder of the year, the focus will be ONLY on college course content. Teachers in these courses will follow guidance from BRCC or JMU in determining curriculum requirements and will communicate expectations to students/families and ensure access for all students.

Revised grading options for dual-enrollment courses with JMU: A student may now choose to take a course credit/no credit. If students choose to take a course as credit/no credit, they receive credits for

successfully completing the course with a “C” or above and receive no credit or penalty for completing the course with a lower grade. The deadline for adjusting credit/no-credit is April 24. Please contact Dr. Whitesell if you are interested in this option.

See https://www.jmu.edu/registrar/students/credit_nocredit.shtml for more information.

Revised grading options for dual-enrollment courses with BRCC:

BRCC REVISED GRADING (3/27/20): All BRCC courses that have not reached the course end date by April 6, 2020, will use the following grading scale:

P+	Pass with a grade of “C” or higher	Applies to college transfer, technical education, and developmental courses. A grade of P+ will not impact a student’s GPA.
P-	Pass with a grade of “D”	Applies to college transfer, technical education, and developmental courses. A grade of P- will not impact a student’s GPA.
W	Withdraw	A student may withdraw up until the last day of instruction without penalty. See VCCS Policy 5.6.0 and COVID-19 Guidance Message 11.
I	Incomplete	The faculty member and student may agree to a plan to complete remaining course requirements in the following semester. See VCCS Policy 5.6.0.

A student is allowed to request his/her earned letter grade/s (A, B, C, D, F) be recorded on the college transcript. Requests must be submitted by not later than the last day of class instruction (prior to administering the final exam or project for the course). A student may submit only one grade request per course, and the request is not revocable. The college must maintain documentation of a student’s request for earned letter grades.

**NOTE: Students who wish to may request that the traditional letter grade be recorded for the college transcript. At this time please contact your DE teacher regarding your request. A formal process for making that request with BRCC is still being determined. If no request is made, the grading scale above (P+, P-, W, F) will be the default grade option for the BRCC college course credit and college transcript.*

**IF A STUDENT CHOOSES a credit/no credit or pass/fail option for the college credit and college transcript, they will still receive a letter grade for their high school transcript.*

6. ***AP (Advanced Placement) Courses:*** Course curriculum is based on guidance from the College Board. For the remainder of the year, the focus will be on essential content and reviewing content covered prior to early March. Teachers in these courses will follow guidance from College Board in determining curriculum requirements and will communicate expectations to students/families and ensure access for all students.

Beginning on Wednesday, March 25, students and teachers can attend free, live [AP review courses](#). Teachers will also continue to use AP Classroom as they have throughout the year. Please contact your teacher if you need paper or hard copy access to materials.

*NOTE: For the 2019–20 AP exam administration only, students can take a 45-minute online free-response exam at home. Students will be able to take these streamlined exams on any device they have access to—computer, tablet, or smartphone. Taking a photo of handwritten work will also be an option. *Any student already registered for an AP exam can choose to cancel at no charge.* Please contact Dr. Whitesell, whitesell@svgs.k12.va.us for questions concerning that option.

7. **Senior Capstone:** All second year seniors are required to complete a senior capstone project to complete the Governor's School program. Work on these projects began last May, 2019. Given the current circumstances and various stages of project completion as of March 13, we will need to be flexible with expectations for project outcomes. Advisors will be working with senior to determine reasonable project expectations and how we can support seniors in making that happen in these new circumstances. To begin this process, seniors should check the Senior Capstone class in CANVAS and complete the Progress Report. Once seniors have submitted the progress report, their advisor will connect with them to formalize a viable plan to "complete" the project. Grading for the senior capstone course will now be pass/fail.

TESTING INFORMATION

1. **Course Exams/Tests:** There will be no final course exam or other assessments other than for dual-enrollment courses in accordance with guidance from BRCC and JMU.
2. **SOL:** SOL testing for Literature, Composition and Ideas I students are now waived.
3. **SAT:** SAT is canceling the May SAT test and will issue refunds for registered students. The College Board will provide future additional SAT testing opportunities for students as soon as feasible. For more information, visit the [College Board website](#).
4. **ACT:** ACT has rescheduled the April 4, 2020 test to June 13, 2020. For more information, visit the [ACT website](#).

STUDENT RECOGNITION

We will recognize outstanding students and seniors as we have in the past, though that format is still to be determined.