

# End of Year Updates

## 2019-2020 (COVID-19)

## DAWSON COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM

### THANK YOU

As our schools remain closed for in-person instruction for the remainder of the 2019-2020 year, there are many questions about the end of the year plan. The district continues to listen to stakeholder feedback and collaborate with GaDOE and other districts to work through details and decisions. However, this newsletter will provide you with information on decisions that have been made at this point. Additional information will be shared as it is finalized.

The events of the past month have required our parents to continue to school from home with the support of our amazing teachers and staff, which presents many challenges that no one was prepared to face. The school district is so thankful for the dedication of our parents and other caregivers who have worked tirelessly to help students continue to engage in learning. These efforts will prove beneficial as we move into the next school year.

Our goal is to serve our students, families and community well. The school district is navigating unprecedented times. Your patience and grace is appreciated. Please continue to share your questions, concerns, and feedback. Your input is valued.



### IMPORTANT DATES

#### MAY 8, 2020

May 8 is the last day for new content.

When students have successfully completed all new content and earned a passing grade, they may consider themselves to be finished with schoolwork. Parents and students should collaborate with the classroom teacher to determine if these criteria are met. May 8 will be the final day for the Senior Class of 2020.

#### May 11-22, 2020

Teachers will shift their focus to help students who have not yet completed coursework, do not have satisfactory performance, or wish to improve their overall performance. Students will be able to turn-in assignments and work on course work until May 22, 2020. Teachers will continue to provide supplemental instruction, remediation, and 1:1 help,

#### April 20– May 22, 2020

Parents and students should remain virtually connected with teachers and the school as schools are working on end-of-the-year activities and virtual celebrations/recognitions for students.

#### April 20– May 22, 2020

As of Friday, April 17, 2020, Dawson County Schools has delivered 98,909 meals to students and families. The district plans to continue the current meal delivery process until May 22, 2020. Summer feeding options will be available. The district will share details in the near future.

### GRADING INFORMATION

Students will not be penalized for circumstances beyond their control due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Student assignments completed the last nine weeks, during the period of online learning, will be used to enhance a student's grade, not as a punitive measure.

At the end of the year, it is our intention that students will be promoted to the next grade unless the student is significantly behind, and holding a child back was discussed before this event. For 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>, promotion guidelines in the student handbook remain applicable. At the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year, each school, with the support of the system staff, will spend time assessing and addressing gaps and individual student needs.

### ELEMENTARY SPECIFICS

**Students in kindergarten through second grades** will receive a standards-based report card. Any standard without sufficient evidence will not be marked.

**Students in grades third through fifth** will receive a numerical grade. No child will receive a quarter four grade that is lower than the average for quarter three.

Per the guidance of the Georgia Department of Education, state assessments will not be administered.

## DCMS SPECIFICS

**Students in grades sixth and seventh** will receive a numerical grade. No child will receive a quarter four grade that is lower than the average for quarter three.

For nine-week connection classes, which started at the beginning of the online learning period, students will receive a numerical grade or an incomplete based on the student's work. An incomplete will be given if student performance is failing and/or there is not enough evidence of content mastery to determine a grade.

Per the guidance of the Georgia Department of Education, final exams and state assessments will not be administered.

## DCJHS SPECIFICS

**Students in grade eight** will receive a numerical grade. No child will receive a quarter four grade that is lower than the average for quarter three.

All 8<sup>th</sup> grade and 9<sup>th</sup> grade high school credit courses will follow the high school grading guidance.

Per the guidance of the Georgia Department of Education, final exams and state assessments will not be administered.



## DCHS SPECIFICS

**Students in grades ninth through twelfth** will receive numerical grades per state requirements in order to earn course credit. A 70 is considered passing. The course averages a student had on March 12<sup>th</sup> at midterm is the lowest grade the student will receive.

Graduating seniors must earn the required 24 units in order to graduate. As in any normal year, credit recovery options and/or the option to take a course again will be available to students who do not earn course credit or do not have enough credits to move to next grade level. Parents will be notified as grades are finalized.

Per the guidance of the Georgia Department of Education, final exams and state assessments will not be administered. For students enrolled in courses requiring end-of-course assessments and final exams, an exemption will be entered into the gradebook.

Advanced Placement (AP) exams will be administered virtually following guidelines from the College Board.

Dual Enrollment credits will be awarded by the enrolling college or university.

SAT and ACT tests have been rescheduled. Many colleges and universities have waived SAT/ACT scores as a determination in acceptance for Fall 2020. Check with the specific post-secondary school for more information.

## GRADUATION

The Dawson County School District plans to reschedule the graduation ceremony for the Class of 2020. The current plan is to hold the ceremony this summer. The district is working with the venue to evaluate options. Once plans are finalized, they will be shared.

## REPORT CARDS

Grades will be finalized by the end of May and report cards will be mailed home to all students in K-12th the first week of June. Parents and students are encouraged to use PowerSchool to stay informed about students' grades. Please understand that teachers will need time to grade assignments and input final grades into PowerSchool. Parents and students should contact their child's teacher or school administrator if they need assistance.

## STUDENT SUPPORT

School counselors, the social worker, and district support staff will remain available to help students and families who may experience emotional and social challenges during this time. Please reach out to your child's teacher, counselor, or administrator if assistance is needed.

## OTHER IMPORTANT INFO

Each school will communicate a plan to parents for iPad collection. Parents will have several options for returning iPads beginning May 11 through May 22.

Each school will communicate a plan to parents for yearbook distribution.

Each school will communicate a plan to parents and students on how to retrieve personal items from the school.

DCHS will distribute graduation regalia. The school will communicate the plan to parents.

All plans for retrieval and distribution of items will follow The Department of Public Health Guidelines.

Please direct any questions regarding field trip refunds to your child's school.

Visit our website for updates: [www.dawsoncountyschools.org](http://www.dawsoncountyschools.org)

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