

# Ramifications

**Highland School of Technology** 

During this time of school closure our staff wants to be work with our students and parents as a resource during these uncertain times. This document is provided to share information on a variety of topics. Please refer back to it often as we will use it to provide the latest information. As always, please contact the school if you have questions or need anything.

### **Who to Contact**

- ☐ **Yearbook:** Ms. Lia Smith at <a href="mailto:ldsmith@gaston.k12.nc.us">ldsmith@gaston.k12.nc.us</a>, purchase a yearbook at Jostens.com (limited supplies remain)
- □ Driver's Education: North Carolina Driving School INC., 704-922-1960, vachestnut@gaston.k12.nc.us
- □ **Academics:** Your child's teachers, their contact information is located on the school's website
- □ **Athletics:** Your child's coach or Mr. Forshee Blair, HST Athletic Director, at <a href="mailto:fiblair@gaston.k12.nc.us">fiblair@gaston.k12.nc.us</a>

### **Academics**

### Student Learning- Grades

On April 23 the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction and the State Board of Education provided the following guidance regarding grades.

**Grade 12 (seniors)**- The goal is for all seniors to graduate.

- Grades that students earned as of March 13 will be their final grade for the course.
- If the grade was passing the student will have passed the course and earned full course credit for that course. The high school transcript will have a new designation reflecting the new circumstance: "PC19"
- If the grade was not passing students have two options:
  - 1) Work with teachers to complete work to bring the grade to a passing mark.
  - 2) Withdraw from the course. The high school transcript will have a new designation reflecting the course withdrawal: "WC19." This is only an option for courses that are not required for high school graduation.
- With course credit being earned with a "Pass" designation, no quality points will be
  assessed. This means 2nd semester grades will have no impact on a student's Grade
  Point Average (GPA). Students cumulative GPA is final as of the end of the 1st
  semester. All honors designations will be based upon final cumulative GPA as of the end
  of the 1st semester.

#### Grades 9-11-

- Students have a choice of how each final grade will be determined:
  - Option 1- Students may choose to receive a numeric grade either the highest grade as of March 13 or as improved throughout the semester as remote learning continues. With a numeric grade, quality points will be assessed and have an impact on a student's Grade Point Average (GPA). Full course credit will be earned. The high school transcript will reflect the numeric grade earned in the course.

- Option 2- Students may choose to receive a "Pass" mark if passing the course as of March 13 or improved to passing through the semester as remote learning continues. The high school transcript will have a new designation reflecting the new circumstance: "PC19." With course credit being earned with a "Pass" designation, no quality points will be assessed. This means the grade will have no impact on a student's Grade Point Average (GPA).
- Option 3- Students may choose to withdraw from the course. This option is available for hardship cases where student circumstances have changed and made it nearly impossible to continue with remote learning. The high school transcript will have a new designation reflecting the course withdrawal: "WC19." The student will not earn credit for the course, and will likely need to repeat the course again in an upcoming school year.
- Students will decide at the end of semester which option they will choose per course.
- Gaston County Schools will NOT administer final exams for any course.
- A students final course grade will be determined by the grades for each of the three grading periods (W4, W%, W6).

In response to the Governor's original school closing order, Gaston County Schools provided hard copy academic packets for various subjects. These were offered as a resource to parents and students. In response to the Governor's extended school closing order, Gaston County Schools moved to online classes. For the week of March 30-April 3, Highland offered E-Classes for core and career and technical education (CTE) classes within a limited schedule. Beginning the week of April 6, Highland will offer E-Classes on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays following our normal four period daily schedule.

On Friday, April 24 Governor Cooper extended remote learning for the remainder of the school year. Highland will continue to offer e-classes for the remainder of the school year.

- Grades and Attendance- Our goal is for all students to maximize their learning in all classes. Whether in the normal face-to-face setting or our E-Class setting, students should attend all classes and complete all assignments. However, we realize this current COVID-19 environment places uncertainty on everyone's ability to maintain a "sense of norm." On Friday, March 27, the State Board of Education issued guidance regarding grades. Since then Gaston County Schools has been working to develop procedures around this guidance. We are anticipating finalizing procedures for grades and attendance the week of April 6.
- □ Devices and Internet- Highland teachers have identified over 60 students who need a device. We have contacted each student and are providing a device for them. Providing internet access is a complicated issue. Gaston County Schools is working through the many variables and trying to develop a response to a students lack of internet access.

## **School Activities**

- □ Yearbook and Senior Graduation Packages- Highland is working with our vendors to ensure our students receive their yearbooks and graduation packages. We are working with Jostens to develop a delivery plan and will communicate plans for yearbook and graduation packages as soon as possible. Graduation packages are expected to be available for students in early May with yearbooks available in late May.
- ☐ **Graduation-** On Friday, April 24 Governor Cooper extended remote learning for the remainder of the school year. As a result, Highland is working to develop options for a graduation ceremony. Our goal is

to honor our seniors with a graduation ceremony. As decisions are made regarding safety guidance such as group size limits and social distancing, we will finalize a plan and communicate it accordingly. Highland is planning to hold graduation as scheduled. This date falls after the Governor's school closing order. However, we will follow the direction of the Governor and Gaston County Schools should circumstances change.

Prom- On Friday, April 24 Governor Cooper extended remote learning for the remainder of the school year. As a result, Highland will not be able to have a prom for this school year. However, if guidance is received allowing for modified prom setting we will make arrangements accordingly. Highland's prom date of May 15 fell within the Governor's school closing order. As such, we are working with our venue, The Loray Mill, to find an alternative date that falls after the school closing order. We hope to communicate this the week of April 6.

### **Athletics**

- On April 24 the Board of Directors for the North Carolina High School Athletic Association (NCHSAA) took action and suspended all athletic activities including games and practices for the remainder of the school year.
- On Monday, March 23 the Board of Directors for the North Carolina High School Athletic Association (NCHSAA) took action and suspended all athletic activities including games and practices. This action was in response to the Governor's school closing order. All high school athletics are governed by the NCHSAA. Highland will follow the direction of the NCHSAA regarding the resumption of athletics moving forward.

# **General Information**

- □ Tuesday, March 10-Gaston County Schools cancelled Field Trips, Out-of State and In-State travel. ☐ Friday, March 13- Gaston County Schools cancelled or postponed multiple events. Saturday, March 14- NC Governor Roy Cooper declared a State of Emergency. Included in this, he closed all public schools for two weeks, March 16-27, 2020. The Week of March 16- Gaston County Schools made available a "Grab-n-Go" meal option, and "Academic Packets" for certain subjects. Monday, March 23- NC Governor Roy Cooper extended the closing of public schools through May 15. Joint statement from the NC State Superintendent of Schools of the NC Board Of Education. Monday, March 23- The Board of Directors for the North Carolina High School Athletic Association (NCHSAA) took action and suspended all athletic activities including games and practices. □ Thursday, March 26- Gaston County Government issued a Stay-at-Home order effective Friday, March 27 at 5:00 ☐ Friday, March 27- Governor Cooper issued a Stay-at-Home order for North Carolina effective Monday, March 30, 2020. □ Wednesday, April 1, 2020- Gaston County Schools adjusted school hours for both the public and employees. On Monday, Wednesday, and Friday the school is open 9:00-12:00. On Tuesday and Thursday the school is open 1:00-4:00.
- Thursday, April 23- The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction and the State Board of Education provided guidance regarding grades for grades 9-11. This follows grading guidance provided for seniors in March.
- □ Friday, April 24- NC Governor Roy Cooper extended the closing of public schools for the remainder of the school year.