



GRADING GUIDELINES FOR GRADES 6-8 2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR

To students in grades 6-8 and their parents:

Thank you for your patience as we have worked to interpret and apply the guidance developed by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) and approved by the State Board of Education (SBE) on April 23, 2020. A team of school and district personnel has developed guidelines and expectations to help answer your questions.

It is important for all students to continue working and learning in order to be prepared for future classes/coursework.

We will share more information and update this information, as necessary, based on additional guidance that we may receive from the state. Thank you for your continued support of your child's school.

GRADING FOR THE FOR 2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR

For all middle school courses, students will receive a Pass “PC19” or a Withdrawal “WC19” for final course grades.

- A student's grade will be held harmless for learning after March 13. However, in middle school, we strongly encourage students to continue working to receive meaningful feedback on strengths and needs on curriculum content.
- PC19 will be assigned to any student who was meeting expectations and passing the course as of March 13 or who worked to improve to the point of passing after March 13 through remote learning.
- WC19 will be assigned to any student who was not passing the course as of March 13 and who was unable to improve to the point of passing the course through remote learning. A middle school course grade of WC19 does not equate to a failing course grade nor does it indicate that a grade retention should occur or that the course must be repeated. The WC19 indicates a lack of evidence of mastery of standards addressed in the particular content area.
- Teachers will document a student's strengths and needs from an academic and social/emotional perspective to ensure an effective transition from the “Gaston At Home” remote learning during the spring 2020 semester to the 2020-2021 academic year.
- High school courses taken in middle school will follow the grading options presented below for high school students with the understanding that if there is a numeric grade on the transcript it will not be calculated in the high school grade point average (GPA) per State Board of Education policy.



GRADING GUIDELINES FOR GRADES 6-8

2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR

- Due to COVID-19, NCDPI developed a new grade scale in PowerSchool to move from Pass/Fail to Pass/Withdrawal. “PC19” and “WC19” have been added to PowerSchool.
- For all middle school courses, students will receive a Pass “PC19” or Withdrawal “WC19” for the final grades.
- Teachers will monitor the progress of students in order to provide feedback and support. Gaston County Schools will provide meaningful feedback to promote student growth as students prepare for the 2020-2021 school year.
- Students who are not able to demonstrate mastery in a course will receive a “WC19.” A middle school course grade of “WC19” does not equate to a failing course grade nor does it indicate that a grade retention should occur or that the course must be repeated. The “WC19” simply indicates a lack of evidence of mastery of standards addressed in the particular content area.
- Students will continue to be given every opportunity to re-do assignments or make-up work to demonstrate understanding of content to receive a “PC19.”
- Schools may utilize any of the following as a way to assess students:
 - Portfolio
 - Interview with Teacher
 - Teacher-made test
 - Project
 - Other performance-based measure

HIGH SCHOOL COURSES IN MIDDLE SCHOOL

For middle school students enrolled in a high school course:

Students will be given a choice for how each final high school course grade will appear on the report card/high school transcript:

- Students will choose one of the following two options for each final course grade:
 - Option 1: A student may choose to receive a numeric grade based on the highest grade representing learning as of March 13 or as improved through the semester as remote learning continued.
 - Option 2: A student may choose to receive a Pass (PC19) and a credit for the course if passing as of March 13 or improved to passing through the semester or a student may choose a Withdrawal (WC19) for the course if not passing or not able to complete the work. A withdrawal means no credit will be issued.
- Families will determine how each final course grade will appear on the report card and high school transcript at the end of the semester after advising from the teacher/school.

After reading this information carefully, please contact your child’s school if you have questions.