

WHITNALL SCHOOL DISTRICT



Family Information Related to COVID-19 and School Closures Bulletin #8 - April 23, 2020

Dear Whitnall Families:

We hope you are staying safe and healthy. Thank you so much for your patience and understanding as we have been adjusting, like you, to the drastic changes in life during these unprecedented times. We are extremely appreciative of our students, parents, and staff for their flexibility and optimism during these trying times.

As you know, virtual learning for the Whitnall School District is in full motion. Our goal is to continue student learning while school buildings are closed, while eliminating any unnecessary stress for students, parents, and teachers. While it is our responsibility to continue to educate our learners, we also want to compassionately take into consideration the variety of challenges that our families and staff are enduring during this time.

As we look back on the time since March 13, we have three distinct phases. These phases have been governed by information available at the time. Last week, it was announced that school buildings will be closed for the remainder of the school year. Since that announcement, we have been planning for the next phase. The focus of the fourth phase will be to determine how we assess learning before and after March 13 and how to close out a school year in a virtual learning environment.

2019-20 Whitnall School District During School Closures due to COVID-19		
Phase 1	March 18 - March 27	Planning to go virtual
Phase 2	March 30 - April 13	Technology and accessibility
Phase 3	April 6 - May 1	Structures, schedule, learning, connecting
Phase 4	May 4- June 12	Assessment of student learning, pacing of student learning, finish school year

Phase 4

We are approaching Phase 4 with a “no harm” mindset, meaning that no student should be held accountable for lack of progress in academic achievement or ability to demonstrate progress because virtual learning has created barriers which would have otherwise not existed. While feedback has been provided to students on learning, we have not been recording summative scores in Infinite Campus. **The week of April 27 will be a transition week to Phase 4, with adjusted pacing and summative scores to start on May 4.**

We will provide an overview of Phase 4 at this time, with more details coming next week after the April 29 professional development day for teachers. Phase 4 has two primary considerations: pacing of learning and assessing of student learning through the end of the school year. Each level has different factors to consider. For all levels, weekly student learning plans will be provided to assist in planning and time management.

No Evidence	Beginning	Developing	Proficient	Exceeding
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Elementary. At the elementary level, a primary factor to consider is the ability to accurately assess student learning at the end of the school year due to the necessity of parental assistance and lack of access to individual students. By May 4, teachers will post a grade for learning (N, B, D, P, E) in Infinite Campus for each outcome as of March 13. Students will not receive lower than this grade for the year but may improve the grade when there is sufficient evidence from the time period of April 6 - June 12. A narrative for each subject for each student will accompany the report card at the end of the school year.

Beginning the week of May 4, the school week for students will be Monday - Thursday, with Fridays being used for teachers to assess student learning and plan together for the following week.

No Evidence	Beginning	Developing	Proficient	Exceeding
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Middle School: At the middle school level, teachers will continue to score assessments of learning outcomes using D, P, and E grades. Any work that previously would have been scored as a B or N, will now be notated as incomplete. This is due to our “no harm” approach as described above. Any learning outcome scored as Developing, Proficient, or Exceeding (per the scoring rubric) is deemed to have a level of proficiency which will allow students to move to the next level. An individual plan will be established for students who receive an incomplete.

Beginning the week of May 4, the school week for students will be Monday - Thursday, with Fridays being used for teachers to assess student learning and plan together for the following week. This is comparable to the current schedule for middle school.

F	D-	D	D+	C-	C	C+	B-	B	B+	A-	A
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High School: The high school level has the most considerations due to external factors and school board policies. We have not yet determined an alternate graduation date but the official end to a school year is on June 30.

At the high school level, teachers will score assessments of learning outcomes using letter grades. Starting May 4, those scores will be reflected in the cumulative semester letter grade calculation. The two ground rules to “no harm” are 1. No failures in the virtual learning environment, and 2. No high stakes testing. Cumulative semester grades will be based on trend and competency for the time period after March 13. Any learning outcome scored as A, B, C (per the scoring rubric) is deemed to have a level of proficiency which will allow students to move to the next level. Students who score a D or F will receive an incomplete in that assessment and for the cumulative grade. An individual plan will be established for students who receive an incomplete.

Beginning the week of May 4, there will be a blue week and a gold week for the remaining six weeks to allow students to focus on fewer subjects at one time and teachers to plan. Weekly plans will be shared and deadlines will be more consistent to allow students to work at a pace appropriate for them individually.

Blue Week: Math, Science, Tech Ed, Computer Sci, Business Ed, Art Gold Week: Social Studies, English, Music, Theater, PE, World Language	May 4 - May 8	Blue Week
	May 11 - May 15	Gold Week
	May 18 - May 22	Blue Week
	May 25 - May 29	Gold Week
	June 1 - June 5	Blue Final Week
	June 8 - June 12	Gold Final Week

Advanced Placement courses will continue to review and prepare students for AP exams. Previously, seniors would have had graduation on June 7 and would not have had classes beyond that date. However, due to the modified school calendar, all high school students may have coursework to complete through June 12 if they do not complete prior to that date. More information related to seniors will be provided.

Our goal is to provide the outline of how we will finish out the school year. We understand you may have questions after reading the overview. More details will be coming from buildings and classrooms over the next week. We want to continue to express our appreciation to all of our educators who are undertaking the onerous task of shifting their work to a virtual learning environment, all with positivity and optimism.

Stay safe and healthy!



Lisa L. Olson, Ph.D.
Superintendent



Lynn LeRoy
Director of Teaching and Learning