10/9/2020

Greetings APW Families,

We have officially reached the halfway point of marking period one! Included with this letter is the *5-Week Progress Report.* This report will look a little different than years past. Teachers will be providing you with comments that identify your student's progress in their class. **There *will not* be numeric grades on this report**. We have decided to omit grades on this report because there has been a challenging transitional period the first few weeks of school for students and staff to figure out how to learn and teach virtually. To prevent frustration of students, we believe it is in their best interest not to provide a grade on this report. Students are still expected to complete any assignments that teachers have assigned. Teachers will be very flexible in accepting work after the due date. We are more concerned about student learning and mastering standards, and not penalizing students for struggling with virtual learning. We do however, want to make it perfectly clear that students are receiving grades as they did before the pandemic. Grades are still documented in SchoolTool, they just won't be published in this report for reasons previously stated. We will look to include grades on the marking period one report card in November.

Tips for Student Success

▪ First and foremost, students must have access to their learning. If your student does not have reliable internet or a reliable electronic device, please contact the main office. We believe that we have assisted most families with this, but we also believe there are a few families out there who still need assistance. Do not hesitate to reach out to us! Additionally, if you need assistance with anything technology related, please call the *Technology Help Desk* at 315-625-5240.

▪ Students should be logging on to their Google Classrooms *every day* (Monday-Friday). If your student is attending school two days a week, they should be working on their assignments at home on the other three days that they are learning virtually. If your student is 100% virtual, it is imperative that students visit their Google Classrooms daily. All Students need to consistently complete work so they do not fall behind and put themselves in danger of failing.

▪ Communication with teachers is essential. You can reach teachers by phone and email if you have any questions or concerns. Our staff is here to serve you and your child. In case you didn't know, all 7-12th grade APW students have a school email account through Gmail. This is a very effective way for students and teachers to communicate. Please see the bullet below to learn how to access Gmail.

▪ Please visit the district website and click on "For Students" and "For Parents". There is helpful information on those pages that include access to the Remote Learning Dashboard, technology instructions, Gmail access, and other important resources!

▪ New York State has communicated to schools that traditional 3-8 ELA/Math Assessments and Regents Exams will be administered this year. We must maintain a high level of rigor for students as our teachers are expected to provide students with the knowledge and skills to be successful on these exams.

▪ We are currently working on arranging teacher schedules to allow them to have more virtual office hours to provide additional support for our 100% virtual learners. Teachers will communicate in their Google Classrooms when they will be available.

▪ Please make sure your students continue to complete the *Daily Attendance Log* (link on the Remote Learning Dashboard) on the days that they are not in school. 100% virtual learners should be doing this every day.

As always, please reach out to me if you have any questions. It has been a great (and safe) start to the school year, and we are confident that we will have continued success moving forward!

Sincerely,

J. T. Olsen

Joseph T. Olsen
Principal