

School Closure - Senior Communication

On Friday, April 17, Governor Reynolds ordered the closure of all schools for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. We know this had an added impact on our seniors, and our hearts are with you as we adjust to what this means. Our district and school have been preparing for this and we want you to know the focus for our students does not shift with this decision. We remain committed to keeping our students safe, providing learning opportunities, and communicating a pathway for success. Although we will not be able to meet in person, our learning continues. MCHS will take the following steps to clarify how credits will be earned this semester and efforts being made to provide meaningful experiences for our seniors:

Graduation Requirements:

Have our graduation requirements changed due to school being closed?

Answer: No, the same course requirements and number of credits, 44, are required to graduate from Mason City High School. Students must pass their current classes to earn credit.

Course Credit

What happens with Semester 2 grades since schools closed short of finishing the Semester?

Answer: Students will end Semester 2 with the grade they had on March 6, the last school day prior to school closure. There will be no additional assignments required or graded for Semester 2. That being said, we will allow students to submit any retakes and missing assignments for work due PRIOR to spring break anytime through Friday, May 29. In that way, students' grades can only be improved, never decreased.

Students with passing grades will receive full credit for the courses they are in. To be sure no students are punished for school being closed, students will have the option to choose a 'P' for passing or the grade earned at the closing of Semester 2.

Students needing paper and pencil makeup work can call the school at 641-421-4436 to request this option.

What if I am still failing a class after May 29?

Answer: After May 29, Semester 2 will be "closed." Any senior student failing a class after May 29 will still have options to recover this credit. We are working on plans to provide summer school for students who are still failing a class. Communication will be shared with these students for opportunities to recover their credits. Any senior that is able to meet graduation requirements prior to Sunday, June 7 will be able to participate in graduation.

With the option of a letter grade or “P,” how will this show on my transcript?

Answer: Due to the uncontrollable factors created by COVID-19, a student's grades entered into the gradebook and placed on a student's transcript for Semester 2 will only benefit a student.

- All students finishing with an A, B, or C in a class as of May 29 will have this grade recorded on their report card if it benefits the student.
- If a B or C negatively impacts a student's GPA it will be changed to a P.
- A “P” earns the same full credit and does not impact a student's GPA.
- All students finishing with a D in a class as of May 29 will have a P show on their report card.

Progress Report

How do I know what my student’s grade was prior to school closing?

Answer: A progress report will be mailed home to all students on Monday, April 27 sharing their grade on Friday, March 6, prior to school closing. Students and parents with access to powerschool may also log in and view their grade online.

What happens with the Voluntary Educational Enrichment Opportunities?

Answer: Teachers will continue to post weekly learning opportunities for students. We recognize the importance of a structure for learning while continuing to be flexible as students are unable to physically attend school.

This is a positive option for students in good standing in their classes as of Friday, March 6 to remain engaged in learning. Students who would like more than one learning opportunity a week can request this with their teacher. Our teachers are ready and willing to help meet each student's need to the best of their ability at this time and recognize that each student's level of readiness is unique.

Teachers will continue to maintain two office hours each day, Monday through Friday, to answer questions and provide feedback on learning.

Senior Awards Ceremony

Will we still have a senior awards ceremony?

Answer: Although we will not be able to meet in person, our goal is to conduct the seniors awards ceremony virtually on Tuesday, May 19. All scholarships and awards will be presented at that time. More details regarding this virtual ceremony will be communicated at a later time.

Scholarships and Awards will be mailed or delivered home to students.

Graduation

Will we still have graduation?

Answer: We will have graduation as scheduled on Sunday, June 7. We understand the importance of graduation to our students and families. Leaving this to unknowns and uncertainty in timelines will likely increase stress for all involved. Our goal is to make every effort possible to hold graduation in person. If this is not possible, we must explore options to hold graduation in a safe and meaningful way.

We appreciate your patience as alternative plans are being made and considered to achieve these goals. Under consideration are:

- Options to hold the ceremony in person or in another format
- Options to hold the academic hall of fame ceremony in person or in another format
- Including the same opportunities for our senior class president and two additional senior class representatives to address their class with a speech
- Individual name recognition for each graduating senior
- The distribution of diplomas
- Making sure students have a cap and gown
- Making sure each student receives an official program for their graduation.

Transcripts

When will my final transcripts be ready?

Answer: Final transcripts will be sent out as normal after graduation. Requests for transcripts must wait until after graduation when all grades are final and students have met all graduation requirements.

Silver Cord

How do I submit my Silver Cord Hours?

Answer: Silver cord sheets should be submitted to Karla Wymore by Friday, May 8. Students can take a picture of the forms and email them to kwymore@masoncityschools.org

Senior Info

How can I share information to be included for any upcoming senior celebrations?

Answer: Seniors were sent a Google Form on Saturday, April 18, encouraging them to complete it by May 1. This form asks a number of questions. Not all answers will be used but may be used in various ways. For example, gathering some of their "favorite" things may be used to make posters for virtual posts online or possibly a slideshow.

Additional information will continue to be provided with updates to events and celebrations scheduled for the end of the year. We understand the importance of celebrating our students' success and are looking for ways to recognize their hard work and efforts.

Thank you for your ongoing patience and support during the COVID-19 pandemic. This is not the end of the school year any of us wanted for our students. I am proud to call myself a Mohawk as I look at how our parents, students, staff, and community have come together to stay safe and support each other.

Sincerely,

Dan Long
Principal, MCHS