

John Adams Middle School

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4/24/2020

JAMS COVID-19 School Closure - Communication

The Mason City Community School District has worked extensively over the past few weeks to finalize details about grading, credits, and graduation.

Based on the announcement from Governor Reynolds on Friday, April 17, 2020, the Mason City Community School District will remain closed for the remainder of the 2019-20 school year. 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. As a result of the school closure through the end of the year, JAMS will take the following steps to clarify how credits will be earned this semester:

Course Credit - Course Grades

What happens with Quarter 3 grades since school closed short of finishing the quarter?

Answer: Students will end Quarter 3 with the grade they had earned on March 6, the last school day prior to school closure. There will be no additional assignments required or graded for Quarter 3. However, we will allow students to submit any retakes and missing assignments for work due PRIOR to March 6 anytime through Friday, May 29. In that way, students' grades can only be improved, never decreased. Work necessary for retake or make up should be requested directly with the classroom teacher. This will likely require an email to the teacher.

Students taking Algebra or Geometry who are earning passing grades will receive full credit for those courses. To be sure no students are punished for school being closed, students enrolled in Algebra and Geometry will have the option to choose a 'P' for

passing or the grade earned at the closing of Quarter 3. They will merely need to contact the JAMS office.

Will grades be issued for Quarter 4?

Answer: Under Voluntary Educational Enrichment Opportunities, the district will not formally assign grades for the 4th quarter. The expectation is that students WILL complete work assigned through the district's Voluntary Educational Enrichment Opportunities because that work is foundational for future learning. It's critical that students not get behind for when schools resume.

Progress Report

How do I know what my students' grade was prior to school closing?

Answer: A progress report will be mailed home to all students who receive hard copies of the Voluntary Educational Enrichment Opportunities. Students and parents with access to powerschool may log on and view grades 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 maintaining a structure for learning while needing a flexible method to do so while students are unable to physically attend school.

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

Will we get report cards this year?

Answer: All students will receive a final report card for the 2019-2020 school year in the mail after June 4 which is/was our official final day of the school year.

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. However, we will continue to work with our families to make the best of this situation and to continue to provide quality learning experiences.

Sincerely,

Jerry Siglin
Lori Cooling