

## Message to MHS Families on 4/16/20

Last evening, a decision was made by the Merrimack School Board to complete this school year using hours instead of days. As a result, the **last day of school will be somewhere within the window of May 28<sup>th</sup>-June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020.**

**GRADUATION:** As we continue with remote learning we look toward our seniors and all the hard work, sacrifice and commitment they have made over their educational careers.

Our original date of Graduation was set as Saturday, June 13, at 10:00 a.m. on Student Memorial Field at Merrimack High School, home of Tomahawks. **(Plan A)**

The administration, along with the senior class officers and advisors have been meeting to come up with alternative plans. One of these plans **(Plan B)** is that if graduation needs to be pushed out the date that we are looking at is Friday evening on July 10<sup>th</sup>, still to take place at Merrimack High School on Student Memorial Field.

Many high schools are in the process at looking at a virtual graduation, **(Plan C)** and other unique ideas have also been discussed. In the future we may need to ask that you provide input to us by filling out a short survey.

As always thank you for your continued support as we work together to celebrate the hard work of our Senior Class of 2020.

**Rigor and Reasonableness:** Throughout this remote learning environment we are asking our MHS staff members to balance rigor in order to preserve the integrity of our curricula with reasonableness; understanding that flexibility is key right now to support our students and families.

- As you know, we have made the decision to forego the Competency grading portion of our hybrid grading system for Semester Two. Our departments have been working hard to focus their content on **quality** over **quantity** by establishing the 4-6 essential components for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester of study.

- Our educators are establishing deadlines for the submission of student work in order to assist students with pacing and to assist students in making progress regarding those essential course components.
- **Students will be allowed to turn in their required assignments up to two weeks following the deadline to allow for individual extenuating circumstances for the student and family.**

We understand that there are concerns from students and parents regarding the validity of establishing **Grade Point Averages (GPA)** right now based on our remote learning challenges. These are decisions that cannot be taken lightly, and we will need to continue those conversations with our Building Leadership Team at Merrimack High School; hoping to provide more information to students and families as soon as possible.

In this remote 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter of the school year it is important that students remain engaged in continuing their learning under these complex conditions. We understand how challenging this can be and, as time goes on, for many this becomes more and more of a challenge. We want you to know that we are here to support students and families in whatever way we can. I have shared our **school counselors** email addresses and phone numbers in the **Remote Learning Guidelines for Students** document and we encourage you to reach out to them.

### **Additional Reminders:**

- Those students receiving “hard copy” materials will have delivery on Fridays by the Bus Company starting **tomorrow**.
- Students or Families requiring technology support for devices supplied by MHS should reach out to: [support@sau26.org](mailto:support@sau26.org)
- Students who would benefit from paraeducator support for their Core Academic Class, can call 424-6231 and Mrs. Cole can put the student in touch with the appropriate paraeducator for assistance.
- Staff are working hard 5 days a week to problem-solve answers to student and parent questions. Please be patient as they may need to collaborate with other staff members including their Department Chairs, in many cases, to provide solutions. It is also important for our educators as well as our students to rest and rejuvenate over the weekend. You can be assured that they will get in touch with you as soon as possible.

- Students can look for the “missing work” icon on PowerSchool Learning which will assist them in identifying work that still needs to be completed.
- Reminder that staff members who call may use \*67 if they are using their personal phones.
- If there are ANY barriers that are creating a challenging situation for our students to complete their work, we ask you to please reach out to the teachers in order to work together to resolve the issue.