

## **Elementary School Remote Grading, Spring 2020**

May 15 2020

### **Introduction + Background**

We are so proud of our Pre-Kindergarten – Fifth Grade Students and Families who have jumped into the unknown world of remote learning. Learning to navigate family, work, and school responsibilities has certainly been a huge leap for all of us while simultaneously learning how to learn from afar. The learning curve has been steep for all of us; this grading policy reflects the complexities of this time. Remote learning has pushed all of us to be advocates of equitable and just education. Students and families have taken the initiative for their learning and maintained continuity of their learning goals.

We are committed to taking care of our elementary students both social/emotionally and academically. **We believe this grading plan is one way we can support them through the end of the 2019-2020 academic year.**

### **Rationale:**

We recognize that the effect of the coronavirus global pandemic has shifted our community drastically, and the need to adapt is necessary. The situation of each family is unique; family situations are constantly changing, and we recognize that our students do not have the same access, whether this be technology, resources, family support, etc. As such, we take a stand in favor of **equity**, to ensure that every student and family receives the support they need to be successful. Since the shift to remote learning in March 2020, our Renaissance community has witnessed the following:

- Families who have fallen sick with COVID-19 and its aftermath;
- Families dealing with food insecurity, job loss and the accompanying stress;
- Students who are struggling with executive functioning skills, despite the support of advisors and learning specialists;
- Special education and ELL students struggling to make progress on IEP goals (that were otherwise being attained in school), due of the untenable problems of remote learning;
- Students who are tasked to support younger siblings with their school work;
- Students who, even with family support, are dealing with depression and cannot produce the same high quality work they did in the building;
- Students with extraordinary family support, who are soaring and exceeding expectations during remote learning; and
- Students who are flourishing, due to limited peer distractions and social pressure.

## **Marking Period 4 – Remote Learning - March 14<sup>th</sup> – June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

Our report cards and grading strategies for TRCS elementary school during remote learning will remain very similar to the policy outlined in the beginning of the 2019 – 2020 school year, with a few additions.

### **Report Card Grades**

Report cards will follow the grading system of

- 1 = not meeting standards
- 2 = approaching standards
- 3 = meets standards
- 4 = exceeding standards
- I = incomplete (PreK – 4)

The addition of an incomplete grade is new for this remote learning marking period. A grade of “Incomplete” will only be given to students whose families have completed a school-provided form explaining the extenuating circumstances that contributed to the lack of sufficient work. Upon review and approval, students will have the summer to complete the missing work and receive a final grade.

### **Fifth Grade and Creative Movement**

**Fifth Grade** students’ report cards will not record “I” for incomplete. Incomplete status is recorded as 1= not meeting standards. Students and families may still request time to complete work and have the grade adjusted on the report card.

**Creative Movement** students will receive a “P” or “F” indicating pass or fail. These students are also eligible to request time to complete work and have their report cards adjusted.

### **Grading Adjustments**

Since all assignments in this remote learning marking period are being turned in electronically, there will need to be some adjustments made for grading purposes. Students will be required to handwrite certain assignments so grammar, spelling, punctuation and other important parts of writing can be accurately assessed. Students will be required to turn in math tests done on paper so the steps of the problem solving process can be accurately assessed. Each time these assessments will need to be submitted by scanning or simply taking a photo of the handwritten work.

### **Report Card Distribution**

All report cards will be distributed electronically on the last day of school – June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020.