



ATHOL-ROYALSTON REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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The Athol-Royalston Regional School District is committed to providing challenging educational experiences that inspire students to acquire the knowledge and skills to become responsible citizens in the global community.

April 12, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I hope this letter finds you well. At ARRSD, we are working hard to ensure we are meeting the needs of our students and families. The district is working with our teachers and staff to make sure they have a safe and healthy working environment.

The district is hearing from many outlets that schools could be closed beyond May 4, 2020. However, this has not been made official. In preparing for the worst-case scenario, our district will begin ramping up our remote learning program.

The state is recommending that schools engage students in approximately a half days' worth of learning each day. Also, DESE recommends schools begin to provide feedback and accountability for participation in remote learning while students are at home.

We at the district realize that remote learning will never replace classroom instruction. We also know we are asking a lot of families—especially those of you who are working and taking care of multiple children at home. Our hope in putting this plan together is to maintain what your children have already learned; when your child returns to school, he/she is not further behind. The plan has been set up to help parents facilitate the learning, not be the instructor. Teachers will continue to call, email, and/or use google meet to support your child. Our teachers will be asking specific questions of students to assess their understanding so they know how much support they may need to give your child.

Below is an overview of how the district will work with and assess your child:

Section 1: Guidelines for Elementary Grades (PK-6)

This process will be followed each week until our school closure ends.

- Teachers will determine each student's progress based on a review of weekly assignments.
- Students will be required to complete posted weekly assignments per class.
- At least one of the teachers' weekly phone calls, emails or google meet sessions will focus on whether or not students have done the work and put in the effort. Teachers will render credit if they feel a student is giving the effort. Credit will be awarded based on effort and participation not proficiency.
- Students may submit assignments electronically. Students without internet access will be provided individual support to submit their assignments via phone. The district will not be collecting paper to avoid having teachers exposed to COVID-19.

Section 2: Grading guidelines in the event of extended school closure beyond May 4, 2020

Pre-K

- Students will receive a formal, written progress update based on participation and engagement with remote learning opportunities at the close of the school year.

Grades K- 6

- Teachers will use students' weekly participation and effort to determine an end of term grade of P or I. *Pass* indicating participation and effort not proficiency. *Incomplete* will indicate lack of participation and effort.
- Students who receive an *Incomplete* will have an opportunity to participate in alternative learning options that may include summer school or other TBD options.
- It is the expectation that every rostered student will be accounted for in the grading system.

Should the school closure extend to the end of the school year, the report card will be modified to reflect new grading procedures.

Secondary (Grades 7-12) Guidelines: Section 1 through Section 4

Section 1: *For high school and middle school (Grades 7-12), with regard to Term 3*

Any student that had a numerical grade of 59 or below as of the school closure date of March 16, 2020, will be provided the numerous opportunities to raise their grade to a 60, and earn credit for Term 3:

- Teachers will provide makeup or grade recovery assignments to be completed and submitted to their teacher by April 27, 2020.
- Teachers' weekly phone calls will focus on the students who have not met criteria for credit. All other students will be communicated through email unless they do not have access.
- Teachers' who are experiencing obstacles/barriers for students who are struggling to meet these criteria should contact the building administration to access additional support.

Section 2: *High School/ Middle School (Grades 7-12) assessment criteria for Term 4 beginning April 27, 2020. This process will be followed each week until our school closure ends.*

- Teachers will determine if a student meets Credit/No Credit (C/NC) on a weekly basis based on engagement in weekly educational opportunities.
- Students will be required to demonstrate effort in a minimum of 3 of the 5 weekly posted assignments per class to earn credit for that particular class; this could also include other teacher provided educational opportunities such as participating in Google Meet sessions.
- Students will submit weekly assignments electronically. Students without internet access will be provided individual support to submit their assignments.
- It is understood that if a student has circumstances within their home that are causing them stressors the teacher along with a guidance counselor can waive this requirement and give the student credit.

Section 3: *If school closure extends beyond May 4, 2020, the following guidelines will be used in determining credit for courses.*

- Students must earn weekly Credit (see Section 2) in at least 60% of the Term 4 weeks in order to receive Credit for Term 4.
- Students must have earned Credit or a grade of 60 in a minimum of two terms in addition to completing the final exam for a year-long course.
- Students must have earned Credit in a minimum of one term (Term 3 or 4) in addition to completing the final exam for a semester 2 course.
- All students will be provided a take at home exam which will cover standards and content taught through the beginning of the school closure March 13, 2020. Students will be allowed to complete the exam at home. If they pass the exam and have not met the criteria above they will receive credit for the course. Teachers may support students in helping them to complete the exam.

Section 4: *Additional information*

- All students that have not earned course credit based on the above criteria will be eligible for summer credit recovery.
- The community service requirement will be waived for the Class of 2020
- Should the school closure extend beyond May 4, 2020
 - A high school graduation will be held. The current date is June 7, 2020. If restrictions prohibit us from using this date, a new date will be announced after the restrictions have been lifted.
 - Academic awards typically received during Class Day would be incorporated into graduation
 - Prom will occur at some point when the restrictions allow.
 - The After-Prom Party will occur immediately following the Prom.
- End of year events such as National Honor Society, Senior Athlete Awards Banquet, etc could occur in the coming months through either virtual means or other creative formats which adhere to social distancing requirements. These will need to be discussed further, but advisors should start considering non-traditional formats.

The district hopes this plan has helped to clarify some things for you. Please know, once again, that we get you may have extenuating circumstances within your home. These circumstances may make it challenging to work with your child. If this is the case, please contact an administrator within your building so that they may work on an individual plan with you that will not cause more stress to your household.