

# An update on final marking and grading for the 2019–2020 school year



It's been a very unusual school year!

None of us could have predicted last September that learning would be based at home for the final three months of the school year and we'd all be doing our best to balance such a wide range of family, work, health and financial realities.

No matter where the last three months have taken you and your children in their school / learning journey, we've got your back..

Below is a summary of where learning has been this spring, how marks and grading will be done at the end of the school year and what we're planning for next fall.

## Guidelines for At-Home Learning

Based on the [guidelines](#) provided by Alberta Education for at home learning, teachers have focused their work with students on the big ideas/key learning students will need when they move to the next grade level of learning.

Guidelines for Content Delivery		
Kindergarten to Grade 3	<input type="checkbox"/> language/literacy <input type="checkbox"/> mathematics/numeracy	Average of 5 hours of work per student per week.
Grades 4 - 6	<input type="checkbox"/> language/literacy <input type="checkbox"/> mathematics/numeracy <input type="checkbox"/> science and social studies through cross-curricular learning	Average of 5 hours of work per student per week.
Grades 7 - 9	<input type="checkbox"/> language/literacy <input type="checkbox"/> mathematics <input type="checkbox"/> science <input type="checkbox"/> social studies	Average of 10 hours of work per student per week.
High School	Specified and core courses required for high school graduation requirements, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> language</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> social studies</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> mathematics</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> sciences (biology, chemistry, physics &amp; science)</li> </ul>	Average of 3 hours of work per course per week.

### **Marks and Report Cards**

While students have been at home, they have been offered a range of opportunities to continue their learning. As students demonstrate a stronger understanding of essential outcomes (or outcomes addressed prior to class cancellation), their grades will be adjusted.

As directed by Alberta Education, each student will receive final grades and a report card at the end June.

For courses that have continued past the March 15 date of class cancellation, final grades **will not drop** below March interim grades, but **may increase**, based on demonstrations of further learning.

### **Elementary & Junior High Q & A**

We've received questions from the parents of elementary and junior high aged students, wondering whether their children will be ready to move forward and how final marks will be awarded.

#### **I am worried that my child has fallen behind in their learning. Can I request that they repeat the grade they are in now?**

- Prior to at home learning, 70% of this year's schooling was covered face to face. We are confident that no matter where students are at in their learning that we will be able to support their learning in their new grade.

#### **What about the subjects that did not continue past March 15th?**

- For subjects that did not continue past the March 15 date of class cancellation, elementary students final grade will reflect their progress to that point.

***(See next page for questions related to high school)***

## **High School Q & A**

We've received questions from high school students, who are wondering how they move on to post-secondary, or make up credits for courses they were not able to complete.

**I'm a high school student. Some of the courses I was registered in for semester two are no longer running while others are. Will I still get credit for all of my courses?**

**What about my total credit count for this year?**

- All high school students in Battle River School Division will be receiving the equivalent to the number of credits they were registered to complete in semester two.
- Schools are working with students to complete courses to the best of their ability. Instruction and coursework is focusing on the core courses needed for graduation (English, social studies, math, and sciences). Teachers are targeting the big ideas/key learnings that students will need when they move to the next level of a course or to graduate. A final mark and credits will be awarded.
- For non-core courses that did not continue past March 15, students will be awarded a final mark and credits for work they started prior to class cancellation. For the sections of the course that did not continue, students will receive 'unallocated credits' to compensate for the missed opportunity to earn credit. Some examples:
  - A Gr 10 student was registered in a 5 credit Art 10 block. They will receive 3 credits in 'Art 10' (awarded for work started prior to class cancellation) plus 2 credits in "Unallocated Credit Course 10' (to compensate for the missed opportunity) for a total of 5 course credits.
  - A Gr 11 student was registered to participate in 5 credits of work experience but was only able to complete 75 hours of work prior to March 15. They will receive 3 'Work Experience 20' credits (for the hours they accumulated) plus 2 'Unallocated Credit Course 20' credits (to compensate for the missed opportunity) for a total of 5 course credits.

**The mark I earned on my March report card does not reflect my understanding in the course. Will I have the ability to bring up my mark?**

- Just as they would in a traditional classroom, students will be offered opportunities to enhance their mark based on demonstration of further learning. This applies to core and non-core courses. For courses that are no longer running, students will be contacted directly by their school regarding the options they might consider.

## **I'm a Gr 12 student and concerned about whether I will be graduating this year.**

### **What can you tell me?**

- Battle River School Division has made grade 12 High School Diploma requirements and post-secondary acceptance their #1 priority.
- Students that were on track to receive 100 or more credits towards a High School Diploma (or 80+ credits in the case of a Certificate of High School Achievement) prior to March 15 are eligible to graduate.
- If a student is unable to complete a course that would have led them to achieve their diploma/certificate, principals have the ability to award credits to ensure the student graduates.
- Students are encouraged to contact their school if they have specific concerns regarding their eligibility.

## **I'm a Grade 12 student and need a final mark and credits in a 5 credit non-core course to use for my post-secondary application and scholarship qualification.**

### **Will this still be possible since my non-core class is no longer running?**

- Schools are working to ensure that students are not disadvantaged by this interruption in learning. Every effort will be made to ensure Gr 12 students are receiving a mark and full credit allocation for the courses they were enrolled to complete. Students are encouraged to contact their school if they have questions regarding their specific scenario.
- For questions regarding post-secondary acceptance, students are encouraged to contact the post-secondary institution directly, and, where possible, the specific program department for assistance. Students and families may also wish to contact their career counsellor, Mrs. Praticante or Mrs. Kope, for additional support.

## **Resuming Classes**

We know there are many questions regarding what class start-up might look like in the fall. Alberta Education is working with school authorities on a re-entry plan for the 2020-21 school year. More details will be shared when available.

Within this re-entry plan, we know that it will be the work of schools to determine where students are at in their learning and provide both the support and necessary instruction to see students move forward.

We recognize there will be gaps in student understanding. That's ok. Our teachers are familiar with working with different students at different learning stages and will do the work necessary to differentiate their approach to support students in bridging those gaps.