

Sullivan West Central School

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Mark Plescia
Principal

Scott Haberli
Assistant Principal

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Dear Parents and Families,

Over the past months we have spent time reflecting on some of our grading practices at the Middle School/High School. Specifically, our faculty and building administrators discussed the practice of how to approach the assessment of student work which is turned in after the due date, and the practice of issuing a “Zero” grade to students. Our discussions over the past months included articles which expressed opposing viewpoints on these topics, as well as work with our District administrative team and Department faculty.

After considering all viewpoints, Mr. Haberli and I are writing to share with you a change in practice regarding our grading of student work which will better align with our overall philosophy as a school.

With the beginning of the 2nd Marking Period:

1. All late work (homework, projects, assignments) will be accepted.
2. If a test and/or quiz is missed, students will be permitted the opportunity to complete it.
3. Work can be submitted using multiple methods (digital, hardcopy). A “Zero” (0) will not be issued for work handed in using an ‘incorrect’ format.
4. Work which is turned in after the assigned deadline can receive a lower grade to reflect the lateness of completion. However, students will not receive a failing grade for an assignment solely because it is turned in late.
5. If a student has not handed in work by the assigned deadline, for temporary grading purposes a red exclamation point will be placed in eSchoolData gradebook instead of a Zero (0). The exclamation point will be set up to be calculated as a zero, showing a true average if that work is not handed in at all.
6. If work is not turned in by the end of the Quarter, teachers can issue a zero (0) for the assignment, thereby not allowing work to be turned in after the end of that Quarter.

We feel that this change in practice will advance our School’s high standards of rigor, which are based in our teachers’ expectations in instructional practices, assessments, and the rubrics which accompany them. Accepting late work will allow teachers to continue to support our high expectations of students by better assessing their understanding, and will express to our students that their learning is the most-important priority with regard to grading and assessment.

It is the expectation that students will work to meet all deadlines and teacher expectations, as always. A students’ success is based on completing work and allowing the teacher to provide accurate feedback

“...enriching the lives of all students”

on their learning progress. A delay in handing in work may still allow a grade to be issued, but not allow for the timely feedback which is essential for learning.

We also strongly encourage parents to utilize the Parent Portal to view your student's grades. This will provide the most up-to-date information on your students' grades and which assignments still need to be completed. If there are any assignment-specific questions, I encourage you to reach out to the appropriate teacher.

I would like to thank you for your continued support. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions. I can be reached at plesciamar@swcsd.org or (845) 932-8401 x1101.

Sincerely,

Mark J. Plescia
Principal