

LAKE SHORE CENTRAL SCHOOLS

EVANS-BRANT CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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May 6, 2020

Dear Lake Shore Students and Families:

While we'd all like to leave our mark on history, likely none of us planned for it to happen during a global pandemic. But, here we are together as a community trying our best to care for each other, physically, emotionally, and academically. History will remember how we rose to the challenge and how we persevered.

Since the beginning of school closures on March 16, 2020, caring for one another has been our primary focus. During this extended period of school closures, districts continue to be charged with providing continuity of instruction, child care options for essential workers, and meals for our students. As a community of educators, we are doing our best to support our students' ability to maintain skills and continue learning, all without benefit of in person interaction with the students we care so deeply about.

Since March 19th, we have provided more than 20,000 breakfasts and lunches to families through our food service contractor, Personal Touch. I can tell you the employees who have prepared and distributed these meals are dedicated, caring, and thoughtful, and this has been an incredible labor of love. I will say the same of our teaching staff, all of whom have strived to meet the challenge of completely changing how we conduct the process of education with a positive, can-do attitude. The lessons they have shared, the greetings and events they have filmed to connect with our kids, the initiatives they have championed — including virtual spirit weeks, lawn signs for our seniors, parades through the community — and so many other ways they have supported our students, are all truly uplifting and give me hope for our future.

We, too, have the same questions as you do regarding graduation, summer school, prom, and what will be next for our school community. Graduation information will be forthcoming. Our high school administration is planning ahead for a variety of scenarios, and with student input, we will design a plan that celebrates their accomplishments while respecting all social distancing protocols as required by our state.

We will continue to communicate with you as we have new information. We are committed to doing everything we can to serve you and your family. If you need a technology device, meals or support, please do not hesitate to contact your student's teacher, counselor or building principal to talk with them about what we can do to help.

Our district has worked to follow the NYS Education Department Guidelines and to make the required local decisions. We have attached some information that should be helpful to you as we move forward with our instructional plans.

We will get through this together. We are LAKE SHORE!

Sincerely,



Dr. Charles A. Galluzzo
Superintendent of Schools

Lake Shore Course Credit and Grading Guidelines

During the 2020 Pandemic

May 6, 2020

This plan will remain in place unless information from the New York State Education Department requires us to reevaluate our plan.

Secondary (6-12)

To achieve Course Credit in high school courses: By the end of the school year students will need to successfully complete the courses they were enrolled in prior to March 16th. Successful completion will be based on effort, participation, and understanding of learning outcomes by the end of the school year. All students have the opportunity to demonstrate that growth as defined by their teacher/department/grade level teams. This may include Google Classroom, GradPoint, cK12, projects or other assignments deemed as important to the learning outcomes in the course.

Students taking a course ending in a Regents exam in June 2020 will still need to successfully complete the course but will have the following modifications:

- Students successfully completing their curriculum and passing the course by June 2020 will receive an exemption from the June and August 2020 Regents exams.
- Regents courses with lab requirements of 1200 minutes are waived for June and August 2020 testing.

Grades will be communicated as a pass/fail model for both the 3rd quarter and the final average. There is no 4th quarter in the MS/HS this year. With the change to a pass/fail model this year, GPA calculations will not include academic work from the 2nd semester of the 2019 -2020 school year.

Assignments will be given to students with the expectation that students engage with the class, attempt learning outcomes and communicate with their teachers. Teachers will track student engagement with a check in PowerSchool under assignments to acknowledge receipt and effort. Teachers will provide feedback and identify opportunities for growth on assignments. Students may continue to complete work assigned during the third quarter.

College level courses will continue to follow the expectations provided by the respective organizations and will include numeric grades. If there are any changes provided to us by the organizations, students will be notified of any changes immediately.

Although we have always held a summer school program, we do not know what that might look like this year if we continue into the summer with the current educational restrictions. Our hope is that our students take advantage of learning opportunities provided now so they are not in need of summer support that may not look any different than this spring's model.

We recognize that our students will move into next year with academic gaps. As a district, our next steps will include the identification and adjustments to curriculum to fill in needed learning in the 2020 - 2021 school year.

Elementary (K-5)

Teachers will identify and assign skill work and content at a manageable level. Students should be able to grasp concepts with little home support, taking as much time as needed with the material so that all students are able to demonstrate some level of competency prior to moving on to the 2020-21 school year.

For our elementary students in grades K-5, they will receive a report card at the end of the year for the student's ability to meet expectations of participation. This report card will be in narrative form and will recognize extenuating circumstances that faced some of our families.

Other

In all grade levels, we have students who require additional support while in school and that is a serious concern for us with students trying to learn from home. As we enter into the final stretch of the school year, the expectation is that every student can learn and earn course credit. For students who we know struggle, teachers will collaborate and work with the student and family to plan for success. Our teachers of students with exceptional needs are doing their very best to meet the needs of every student. Upon our return to school, we will work hard to identify if and where there has been any regression of skills and then will do everything possible to remediate and improve.

We are all here to work with you and your children. We know that this is a very challenging time for so many of our families. Please reach out with any questions or concerns, at any time.