



REMOTE LEARNING AND GRADING

Taft's decision to shift to remote learning and Pass/Fail grading was an involved process that included input by the headmaster, assistant headmaster, dean of academic affairs, dean of faculty, dean of college counseling, and the academic department heads. The dynamic nature of COVID-19 and the importance of prioritizing the health and safety for the Taft community underscored the decision to move to Pass/Fail, as did the following pieces of rationale:

- **Health and Well-being** - The likelihood that members of the Taft community will be directly impacted by COVID-19 factored into the consideration of individual circumstances that may influence a student's ability to complete academic work.
- **Equity** - The global nature of the Taft community requires that the school approaches the assessment of academic performance in a manner that allows for students to be treated equitably on their transcripts.
- **Academic Habits Rubric** - This robust evaluation tool will aid in the delivery of feedback to students about their learning.
- **Assessment Validity** - Utilizing Pass/Fail allows for the focus to be on the creation of holistic assignments instead of maintaining the security of a test or assessment. It creates an environment where there is reasonable confidence in the validity and fairness of student work.
- **College Admissions** - Taft's college office has done extensive research on how colleges will view this in the admissions process for the class of 2021. At this point, the college office is confident that this change will have little impact on students' college admissions outcomes.
- **Peer Schools** - A number of Taft's peer schools are making a similar adjustment for similar reasoning.
- **Pedagogical Creativity** - By utilizing Pass/Fail, faculty can spend their creative bandwidth on making sound and creative learning experiences for students.
- **Student Stress** - Eliminating all the weight and angst around graded performance provides one less thing to worry about for both faculty and students.