

Derby Academy Distance Learning Assessment and Grading Guidelines- Upper School

During this unprecedented time of distance learning, Derby Academy faculty and staff seek to hold true to our school's mission statement to "inspire students to discover the joy of intellectual curiosity, mastery of learning skills, and service to the community". Despite a major shift in platform and location, the Derby faculty and staff have moved forward with meaningful learning experiences that seek to "Improve both Mind and Heart".

Given that distance learning has brought about real shifts in terms of platform and our daily physical/social interactions for our whole community, our approach to assessment and grading has appropriately shifted to fit with these changes.

The Derby Academy Upper School has come up with the following guidelines for grading and assessment in Trimester 3:

Continuing to provide high quality feedback and assessment to students and families:

- Students will continue to receive grades and detailed feedback/rubrics from teachers on the assessments given during Trimester 3 so they can monitor their progress toward content and skill mastery in each subject.
- Narrative reports will still be written for each student in the core academic subjects that detail their performance and progress during distance learning in Trimester 3.

Distance Learning Core Value: Empathy

- Given these uncertain times, the Upper School faculty will engage empathetically with families and students to ensure unique circumstances are taken into account and that the best course of action for students will be taken, as they work to achieve credit for their classes.

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Credit/No Credit:

- Instead of letter grades, students will receive “Credit” or “No Credit” on their transcripts and report cards for Trimester 3.
- Just as each faculty member previously outlined requirements and guidelines for students to achieve certain grades in their individual classes, faculty have developed their own requirements regarding the work necessary for a student to earn credit for their class. While these may vary somewhat from class to class, common threads among classes include the following expectations:
 - **Credit**
 - Students maintain an average of 75 or above for their trimester average.
 - Students attend and participate in synchronous classes; if they are not able to attend, they or their parents will let their teacher know the reason for their absence from class.
 - Students demonstrate effort and engagement in their classes to the best of their ability.
 - Students complete assignments in a timely fashion.
 - Students complete formal assessments for the class.
 - **No Credit**
 - The “No Credit” designation will not come as a surprise to any student or family. We will communicate thoroughly with students and families in advance, if a student is at risk of receiving this on a narrative report or transcript.
 - If a student is struggling in a class, the teacher, advisor, and/or division head will communicate with the student and their family to partner together to create a support plan for the student.
 - There will be a grace period for those students who don’t qualify for “Credit” on their report card by the end of the trimester. In this circumstance, students would receive an “Incomplete” on their report card while we partner with the student and his/her family to make up work or retake assessments to qualify for credit.