

John V. Dolan
Superintendent of Schools



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June 5, 2020 - Phone Message

Good evening East Islip, this is John V. Dolan, with your scheduled update.

In accordance with the Governor's Executive order the final day of school this year will be Friday, June 19th. You will receive an email from your principal on Tuesday, June 9th outlining end of the year procedures and activities. Yesterday, the Governor issued a statement restricting end of the year in person graduation. It is our belief that this statement will be updated so please stay tuned. If you feel strongly about this, please exercise your right to peacefully and politely protest by emailing your elected officials.

On March 17th, I quoted Dr. Martin Luther King who said, "Through education we seek to shape attitude, aptitude and work ethic". There will be no message on Monday. Instead I ask you all to read or listen to Dr. King's "I Have a Dream" speech. Through these difficult times of hurt and despair we have seen the bright seeds of the future that need to be nourished and nurtured. We were thrown into the world of distance learning. We have done our best; we know what we need to do, and we are deeply committed to improving. Our community and nation are tired, hurt, frustrated and angry. It is time for us to look to the future and begin the process of growing scars over our wounds. These scars will bring us together stronger than ever.

Our dream is simple. People will be patient and empathetic as we find our way back to school and work in a post COVID-19 world. Our dream is we will seek solutions together. Our dream is we all embrace the fact that we need each other as we reflect and rebuild from the challenges of the past 14 weeks. Dreams are nice but we have lots of work ahead as we prepare to reopen in September.

America was built through hard work and sacrifice, and I am looking forward to the healthy exercise of working with all of you to provide a place where our children can make their dreams come true. If Dr. King was alive today, I believe he would be saddened that progress has been slow and that we have allowed a disease to push us backwards into frustration and violence. I believe that Dr. King would see past his sadness and recognize that we have made progress and he would truly appreciate all the good people the way I appreciate all of you who are working to make our schools, community and world a better place. Anger and violence are a vicious never-ending cycle. Empathy, kindness and hard work are the tools brave people use to make progress. People seeking solutions and progress can only be defeated if they stop working on the road to a better future for all.

Thomas Jefferson, a wise, yet flawed leader once said, the only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good people to do nothing. Our dream is to continue to move forward together. May our disagreements be respectful and polite so our children can work hard so their dreams come true.

June 5, 2020 – Information Letter
GRADING PLAN INCLUDED

Dear East Islip Community,

As per the extension of Executive order 202.12 issued by the governor, to cover weekdays from April 20 through the end of the school year, the East Islip School District will:

- **Continue to provide “Grab & Go” meals at the high school between 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.**
- **Continue to partner with SCOPE to provide emergency childcare services for those parents who currently work in the medical field (first responders, EMT, medical doctors and nurses).**
Details can be found on SCOPE’s website,
<https://www.scopeonline.us/scope-emergency-child-care>

- **Continue to provide lessons through our temporary “Remote School Plan”**

All students have an Outlook email account. Students should be using & checking their East Islip Outlook email.

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Thank you again for your patience, support and cooperation. Let’s continue to focus on what we can control:

- ✓ Continue to complete your schoolwork to the best of your ability.
- ✓ Continue to support and pray for those brave people who must leave home to protect and serve us.
- ✓ Continue to have a special place in your thoughts and prayers for those who have lost loved ones without being able to say appropriate goodbyes. May loving memories carry you through this heart wrenching time.

Please continue to follow social distancing protocols and wear masks where appropriate. For the foreseeable future this is our reality. Please be respectful of others by acting appropriately.

Grading Update in Response to COVID-19

Secondary Schools

East Islip School District will continue to utilize numeric grades during quarter 4. In recognition of the many challenges students and families have encountered during these unprecedented times, we have designed three scenarios to help meet the needs of all our students. These grading scenarios will allow students the opportunity to benefit from the grades they earned based on their hard work and performance while receiving instruction remotely.

The scenarios are listed below:

Quarter 4 - grade will be a numeric grade earned by the student if it does not negatively impact the final average. (See example Student A)

Quarter 4 - grade of 65 or above will be converted to a Pass (P) if the numeric grade will negatively impact the final average. (See example Student B)

Quarter 4 - grade of 64 or below will be recorded as the numeric grade earned. Quarter 4 grade will not be lower than a 55. Student made little to no effort in staying connected. (See example Student C)

Example of 3 Possible Scenarios

Student	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Final Grade
Student A	80	75	81	91	81.75 (82) Average of all 4 quarters
Student B	80	75	81	68 or P	78.66 (79) Average of quarters 1, 2 and 3
					72.75 (73)

Student C	80	75	81	55	Average of all 4 quarters
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Calculation of Final Average

Full-year courses will be recorded in one of the following ways:

1. If the quarter 4 numeric grade is maintained, the final grade will be an average of all 4 four quarters. (As listed in example Student A)
2. If the quarter 4 numeric grade is replaced with a Pass (P), the final grade will be an average of the first three quarters. (As listed in example Student B)
3. If the quarter 4 numeric grade is 64 and below, that grade will remain, and the final grade will be an average of all four quarters. Staff will review the circumstances of all students who meet the criteria before determining whether to over-ride a failing grade. (As listed in example C)

Semester Courses will be recorded in one of the following ways:

1. If the quarter 4 numeric grade is maintained, the final grade will be an average of quarters 3 and 4.
2. If the quarter 4 numeric grade is replaced with a Pass (P), the final grade will be the grade for quarter 3.
3. If the quarter 4 numeric grade is 64 and below, that grade will remain, and the final grade will be an average of quarter 3 and quarter 4. Staff will review the circumstances of all students who meet the criteria before determining whether to over-ride a failing grade.

If clarification is needed on the grading for the 4th marking period or final grade, please contact your child's school counselor.

Elementary Schools

May Progress Report

Progress reports will not be made available as there is ongoing communication with parents via the Google Classroom platform. Parents are strongly encouraged to contact the classroom teacher should there be any concerns or if clarification is needed on any assignments.

Third Trimester Report Card

We understand that situations in the home vary for our families and the level of support for one child may be very different from another child therefore, placing challenges for some. Our mission here is to establish a positive "Remote Learning" experience that is fair to the child/family, while keeping them engaged in their schoolwork. We wanted to find a balance between being sensitive to the overall situation, while maintaining the expectation that "school is in session" and students are expected to complete work. It is the goal of East Islip teachers and administrators to provide our students and families the support needed to stay positive while dealing with different challenges. Feedback for the third trimester will be provided as outlined below:

Kindergarten

- Classroom Teacher will provide comments on progress
- Art, Music, PE, an Effort Grade will be provided only (N/A, Satisfactory or Excellent)

Grades 1-5

- Classroom Teacher will provide comment on progress
- Effort Grades will be provided in Reading, Writing, Word Study, Math, Social Studies, Science (Satisfactory or Excellent)

- Art, Music, PE, an Effort Grade will be provided only (N/A, Satisfactory or Excellent)

If clarification is needed on the grading for 3rd trimester, please contact your respective building principal.

Teachers will be available to support student learning remotely while we are mandated to stay home. Teachers will provide responses in a timely manner and use digital tools, as well as traditional tools, to connect with students and parents. Teachers will continue to provide learning opportunities for their students as long as our schools remain closed.

We truly appreciate your patience and support. During these challenging times, families are all dealing with multiple issues and overall feelings of isolation. Our goal is to provide instruction and support as best we can. All we expect is our students to make their best effort knowing full well there are greater concerns behind each and every door.

Once again, we urge everyone to be patient as we move forward together. Our lessons are evolving in a positive way, but we must make sure we are using safe and secure platforms for delivery. We ask that you please focus on connection and content in the area of instruction.

Please allow our professional staff time to adjust accordingly. If you have any questions concerning grades, please hold them until report cards are issued. Again, we urge you to focus your efforts on connecting and completing assignments.

If you have technical difficulties, please contact our help desk via email @ help@eischools.org. If you have any academic questions, please contact your building principal, Mr. Paul Manzo at pmanzo@eischools.org or Dr. Belz @ lbelz@eischools.org.

Any other questions, or if you just need to vent, please contact-jdolan@eischools.org or jmann@eischools.org.