

# NEW BEDFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Assistant Headmaster



## **New Bedford High School** ***Bernadette Coelho*** ***Headmaster***

Dear New Bedford High School Students and Families,

I hope this letter finds you safe and healthy. Our team at New Bedford High School has been working hard to ensure all students are provided with as many opportunities to continue to engage in their learning during these unprecedented times. In addition, we have closely reviewed state guidelines and have worked on a system for crediting students for the work that they are completing in a manner that ensures fairness and equity to all students. Based on guidance from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, New Bedford High School will provide grades to students during this distant learning period as follows:

**FOR FULL YEAR COURSES:** The student's end of year grade will be a letter grade. The letter grade will be based on the 1<sup>st</sup> semester letter grade, and the cumulative work that the student completed during the beginning of the third quarter and distant learning time. A student's final yearly grade will not be lower than the 1<sup>st</sup> Semester grade but may increase from that grade based on the work the student completed during the distant learning time. As an example:

- A student received a 75 in the first quarter, and an 85 in the second quarter. Therefore, their overall 1<sup>st</sup> Semester grade is an 80 (B-). The student's final letter grade for the year will not be lower than the B- but may be raised to a higher letter grade based on the distant learning work completed.

**FOR SEMESTER 2 COURSES:** The student's end of year grade will be "Credit/No Credit" (C/NC). This determination will be based on the cumulative work that the student completed during the beginning of the third quarter and distant learning time. Students will earn .5 credit for semester 2 courses if they receive "credit" for their end of semester grade.

Students will receive a final report card at the end of the school year. The student will receive a credit/no credit indicator based on a pass/fail grading system for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> quarters. This indicator will remain on the student's report card. If a student is unable to complete work during the period of distant learning, parents/guardians will have the opportunity to appeal the grade and provide documentation during the next school year, as to circumstances that prevented their child from completing the assigned work.



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It is the expectation that students complete all distant learning opportunities provided by their teachers. Students who are in advanced coursework, who do not complete the distance learning work, will lose that designation (honors and advanced placement) on their final report card unless the parent/guardian can provide evidence to the school principal as to why the student could not complete the work.

A student's GPA will be calculated based on the 1<sup>st</sup> semester grades only which were completed prior to school closure.

Students enrolled in a college dual enrollment class during the distant learning period will receive a grade from the college and it will be included on their final transcripts.

Students who are enrolled in Advanced Placement Courses will receive a grade of pass/fail for quarter 3 with the expectation that students participate in Advancement Placement exams as scheduled. We have been advised that colleges and universities will continue to accept the credit with a score of 3 or higher on the exam.

As a reminder, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education work expectations for students during distant learning are: "that districts support students to engage in meaningful and productive learning for approximately half the length of a regular school day. We expect this learning to take place via a combination of educator directed learning and student self-directed learning."

Students are either completing work being assigned to them by their teacher via an online platform or they have requested packets of work which are posted on the New Bedford High School website. The packets are provided to students that do not have access to internet and/or a device to complete the online work. Students will be provided deadlines for the work to be turned in to teachers and should adhere to those time frames. If you have questions or concerns, please contact your child's teacher or guidance counselor. Please note that all e-mail addresses are listed on the New Bedford Public Schools Web Page.

Our team of administrators, teachers and staff will continue to make online learning opportunities our priority and want to ensure as positive an experience as possible. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us during this time.



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