



Dr. PK Diffenbaugh
Superintendent of Schools

P.O. Box 1031
700 Pacific Street
Monterey, CA 93940

(831) 645-1204
(831) 649-4175 FAX
pkdiffenbaugh@mpusd.net

April 15, 2020

Dear MPUSD Families and Community;

The COVID-19 global health crisis has forced the closure of schools across the country and prompted sudden shifts to Distance Learning. In response, the Monterey Peninsula Unified School District Board of Education discussed and approved **Resolution #19/20-25: Implementation of Proposed Changes in Grading System and Graduation Requirements** for spring semester 2020 at their regularly scheduled Board meeting on April 14, 2020. For the remainder of the 2019-20 school year the Monterey Peninsula Unified School District will adopt the following grading policy:

- **Transition all high school students to “pass/no pass” grading for Semester 2 with an “Opt In” for traditional letter grades**
- **Transition all middle school students to “pass/no pass” grading for Quarter 4**
- **Transition all elementary to a written narrative progress report for 3rd trimester**

This decision was not reached lightly, and included input from principals, instructional leads, district-level administration, guidance from university admissions officials and Monterey County superintendents. We are thankful for our partnership with our teachers and the Memorandum of Understanding signed to memorialize the temporary shift in grading practices to complete this school year.

For our middle and high school students, moving to pass/no pass grading will benefit our staff and students without negative consequences for students with collegiate aspirations. Universities across the country, including the University of California and California State University systems, have signaled that students will not be penalized for missing traditional standardized tests or for posting pass/no pass transcripts for the spring 2020 semester. Please find the UC systems assurance [here](#), as well as the CSU's assurance [here](#).

Moving to a pass/no pass grade allows for MPUSD to post accumulated credits without positively or negatively impacting grade point average. Students must receive a pass in order to earn credit towards meeting graduation requirements. ***The move is temporary and will be discontinued when students and staff return to school physically in the fall of 2020 for the 2020-21 school year.***

Although students will not be penalized for a pass/no pass grade, we understand that some high school students and families may place value on the continuity of a letter grade posted to their transcript. **MPUSD will offer an Opt-In Request for a letter grade for high school students.** Form may be accessed [here](#) if students (and their families) wish to still receive a letter grade for spring semester 2020. Please find the guidelines below outlining the option to receive an A-F grade for spring semester 2020.

Optional “Opt-In” for A-F grading guidelines:

Students who choose to “Opt-In” to the A-F grading scale will be graded on an A-F grade scale based upon work completed spring semester 2020.

- Students must complete the MPUSD Opt-In A-F Grading Scale Request form by **Friday April 24, 2020, by 5 p.m.** accessed [here](#).
- If a student chooses to “Opt-In,” this applies to **all** courses for the spring 2020 semester (They may not choose to select individual courses).
- Students must participate in Quarter 4 (April 8 - June 5, 2020) Distance Learning
- Teacher of record determines if the student’s participation in Distance Learning is sufficient, and if they shall receive a grade higher than Quarter 3.
- Once a student “Opts-In” to receiving grades, they will not be able to “Opt-Out” of receiving grades and select the P/NP option.
- Students will receive Quarter 3 grade or higher if guidelines are met.

We appreciate your patience as we navigate this new season of Distance Learning.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'PK Diffenbaugh', written in a cursive style.

PK Diffenbaugh
Superintendent