4/23/2020

Dear Solvay Families,

We hope this communication finds you and your loved ones healthy and safe. We miss seeing your children’s’ smiling faces and hope that we will be together soon. As we enter our 6th week of the COVID-19 school closure, I would like to provide you an update on a few items.

**Marking Period 3 Grades**

The COVID-19 transition to distance learning occurred a little over half way through the third marking period. We understand that the transition to distance learning was rapid, and comes with many challenges. During this uncharted time, we have asked teachers to focus on assessing students' learning, considering the constraints the COVID-19 closure presents.

Based on teachers’ assessment of learning prior to and during the closure, grades will be given to students and course averages will be reported on report cards. We acknowledge the difference between in person learning opportunities and distance learning and this difference was taken into consideration when assigning grades. The NA grade simply means that due to circumstances, teachers were unable to truly assess the given standard or skill. Please be assured that balancing fairness while providing feedback to students in this turbulent environment is incredibly important to us.

Marking Period 3 grades will be available via SchoolTool on April 24, 2020. If you need any assistance in accessing SchoolTool please reach out to me for support.

**Marking Period 4**

Marking period 4 began as previously scheduled on Monday, April 20th. While we understand the COVID-19 closure has thrusted all of us, including our students and teachers into new territory, the continuity of education and associated assessment of learning must progress within the constraints the situation presents.

Teachers are expected to offer learning opportunities for students during the closure. The distance learning opportunities offered by teachers are expected to be aligned to the appropriate grade level standards and curriculum. Your child should be receiving regular learning opportunities in all core subject areas and special area subjects. The intent of the learning opportunities is to facilitate students’ learning of new material in all areas while understanding that the pace of distance learning is not the same as face-to-face learning.

It is expected that students will engage in the distance learning opportunities provided by their teachers to the best of their ability. Teachers are expected to extend professional judgment and grace to students in acknowledgement of the difficult and unsettling situation that currently exists. In return, we ask that students and/or parents/guardians reach out to teachers, building administrators, or guidance counselors for further support or clarification of expectations as needed. The district is committed to supporting all students during this time of distance learning.

Throughout the remainder of the closure, teachers will continue to assign work, develop lessons, and assess students. SchoolTool will be regularly updated by teachers to support the documentation of students’ progress and assessment of learning. We will continue with the same grading system for the remainder of the school year, making minor adjustments as necessary to be responsive to the situation.

As always, feel free to call if you have any questions or concerns so that I may assist you.

All my best,

Christine Miczan
Principal Solvay Elementary School

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Solvay Union Free School District
Jay Tinklepaugh
Superintendent of Schools
PO Box 980
Phone: (315) 468-1111
Fax: (315) 468-2755

Solvay, NY 13209-0980
www.solvayschools.org