



HEUVELTON

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

April 27, 2020 Update

During the past six weeks the amount and pace of change has been significant, and at times outright confusing. With the statewide school closure recently extended through May 15, and a decision on the rest of the school year by Governor Cuomo expected this coming week, it is important to provide some updates. The information below describes key aspects of school, such as student learning and basic operations. We're here to help answer your questions, and to hear from you about how we can better serve our school community. Never hesitate to contact the Main Office from 8 a.m.-3 p.m., Monday through Friday with questions. If we can't provide an immediate answer, your questions will be routed to appropriate staff.

Philosophy

It is our sincere hope that you are feeling supported and cared for by the Heuvelton Central School family during this challenging time. That has always been our intent, but our existing systems of learning and communicating have had to change, and we want our intentions to be clear.

Heuvelton Central School wants to maintain realistic expectations for our students and families during this time. One educator recently reflected that this is not a period of online instruction, rather, it is a period of emergency virtual instruction. Teaching and learning remotely have not been formally taught, or practiced, with any uniformity. At best, we're forced into a situation where the routine, method and pace of instruction and learning have been turned on their head. At worst, students, families, teachers and staff are faced with hardships or anxieties related to health, work, childcare, etc., that limits the ability to focus on learning in a meaningful way. Learning is important, but our greatest concern lies in the well-being of our students and families. The information below provides important updates to several aspects of learning, grading, meals, and more. Please reach out to me, the principals, or any member of our staff if there is anything we can do to assist you or your children.

Instruction

Guidance issued by the New York State Education Department is very favorable to students who are living and learning through this uncertain time and the goal of the District is to do the same. Teachers are focusing their instruction on only the most essential learning goals in their curriculum, with the realization that not all students have access to the necessary support for academic success in the current environment. The focus in past weeks has largely been on retention and reinforcement of previously taught material. In preparation for a school closure that could potentially last through the end of the school year, instruction has shifted to prioritize all content that best prepares students to meet the essential learning outcomes for the course and that best supports students' future learning. We encourage and expect students to communicate with teachers and participate in assignments and learning tasks provided by their teachers. Grading criteria for each grade level are outlined below, with [an accompanying presentation](#) to explain it more fully.



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Elementary Grading

PreK-K: Report cards for our youngest students will include narrative comments, with no numeric grades.

Grades 1-6: Report Cards will include comments and a rating regarding students' participation during the 4th quarter. There will be no numerical grades based on academics. Connecting with teachers in SeeSaw, via Zoom, or other technology, as well as completing written learning activities reflects student effort and participation.

- (E) Excellent - Student has completed *MOST* remote learning activities.
- (S) Satisfactory - Student has completed *SOME* remote learning activities.
- (I) Inconsistent - Student has completed *FEW* remote learning activities.
- (U) Unsatisfactory- Student has completed *NO* remote learning activities.

Grading for 7-12

All courses for grades 7-12 will be graded on a Pass/ Fail basis for the fourth quarter, based on participation and work completion. The criteria are defined as follows:

Pass: Contact and adequate classwork was made with the teacher during the closure, and completed student work reflects a minimum score of 65%. Additional designations of Mastery (M) or Distinction (D) may be added. Mastery indicates student marks of 85-94%, and Distinction indicates scores of 95-100%.

Fail: No, or highly limited, communication occurred during the closure. Little to no work was consistently attempted or submitted. Student work reflects a score of less than 65% for assigned work and learning activities.

Final class grades for the year will be the average of grades earned for the first, second, and third quarters, and course credit will be awarded as outlined below. In some circumstances, students may need to attend and pass a summer school course to earn credit.

- A passing average and a P in the 4th quarter = class credit is earned.
- A passing average and a F in the 4th quarter = a determination on a requirement of summer school will be made by the teacher and principal.
- A failing average and a P in the 4th quarter = a determination on a requirement of summer school will be made by the teacher and principal.
- A failing average and a F in the 4th quarter = requires a passing grade in summer school to earn class credit.

The format and timing of summer school is yet to be determined, and may be impacted by health considerations related to the pandemic.



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School Budget and School Board Elections

As shared in a prior notice, the Governor has declared that the annual school budget vote and board of education election are postponed until at least June 1, but no date has yet been provided. Therefore, you will receive the budget notices and newsletters later, according to this new timeline. More information will be shared as it becomes available.

Meal Distribution

Meals are now distributed once weekly on Tuesdays in the side parking lot at Heuvelton Central School from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. The District will provide breakfast and lunch for five days at a time. Meal pick up is available for all children 18 and under, and the program is not based on income. Children are not required to be present. Direct all inquiries to our Main Office.

In closing, even though we aren't spending many days together each week under the same roof, the students are ever-present in our heads and hearts. Be well, stay safe, and stay healthy.

Sincerely,



Jesse Coburn