



Ontario High School Students and Families,

As you may know, Governor Kate Brown held a news conference today and announced that students will not be returning to school, but will complete the year through distance learning. Almost everyone has responded to their teachers at this point for the distance learning launch date of Monday, April 13th. She also noted that all classes will be scored on a Pass/Fail scale rather than letter grades.

The governor addressed the pathway to graduation design for all 2020 seniors. The filter used for their decisions was to make sure no harm was done to seniors due to Covid19, something obviously out of their control. They also reasoned that in the 12 years a student has been learning, these last few weeks only represent less than 2% of that time and does not warrant a negative impact on their learning history. With those filters in mind, the state decided that:

- Any senior who was passing their class as of the date of school closure, March 13th, will receive a P (pass) for the class and will not be required to continue with distance learning for that class.
- Any senior not passing their class as of March 13th will not be considered passing and will continue with distance learning for that class until the end of the year to earn the credit necessary for graduation. This also applies to any 5th year senior or any senior in a credit recovery class.
- Within a week, we will have audited all senior transcripts and will be notifying all seniors and their parents of individual graduation status and plans. If a senior has met all of the credit graduation requirements for Oregon with passing classes as of March 13th, they will not be required to participate in any distance learning (except those for college credit). If they are missing credits or failing classes, we will be supporting them in obtaining credit toward graduation as they continue distance learning classes.

Despite the fact many seniors may be done with most or all of their classes, we are still here to support them with FAFSA, college applications, scholarship applications, mental health services, meals, etc. We encourage them to please contact Mrs. Figueroa for any of these needs through email ([tfigueroa@ontario.k12.or.us](mailto:tfigueroa@ontario.k12.or.us)) , call or text at 1-208-477-1422.

#### **Answers to Some General Questions:**

**Q. If I'm passing my class and it is for college credit, do I continue with the class to receive the college credit?**

A. We are unsure about college credit at this time; please start with those classes on Monday, April 13th and continue until we receive further guidance. You will hear from your col cred teacher.

**Q. If seniors do not get the last part of their schooling, how are they going to be prepared for college in the fall?**

A. The state has said that this will be the case for students across the state and nation and colleges have been directed to factor this into their instructional supports for incoming Freshmen; they also said that students have entered college at varying levels of capability prior to this and as humans stay in a constant

state of learning, the loss of a few weeks of instruction combined with the college supports is not anticipated to have an impact that cannot be overcome.

**Q. How will the P/F affect their transcript?**

A. Colleges nationwide recognize that the effects of Covid19 will be evident in final grades and will factor that into all things transcript-related (GPA, admissions, etc.)

**Q. What about the graduation ceremony?**

A. The state has said graduation celebrations need to adhere to social distancing standards and encourage us to be creative in how we choose to celebrate. They also suggest schools consider postponing the ceremony if students want a more traditional ceremony. Not knowing when the distancing standard will be lifted, this could be as late as August. I have tasked senior student leadership with contacting their classmates to gather ideas and preferences. Any additional ideas can be sent to me. We recognize this is an extremely important right of passage for all seniors and will do everything possible to honor them.

**Q. Are grades 9-11 still expected to complete the distance learning this year for credit?**

A. Yes, starting Monday, April 13th

**Q. Where can I find more information about this?**

A. The district will be posting additional information on the website and information can always be found on the Oregon Department of Education website.

These details may change as the state continues to monitor the situation, but this is our understanding at this point. We will not allow anything Covid19-related to impede a student's ability to graduate. That is our commitment. Superintendent Albisu will be meeting with state officials at 2:00 tomorrow. If there are any questions you'd like her to ask, please send them to me by noon tomorrow (April 9th) through email at [jelizondo@ontario.k12.or.us](mailto:jelizondo@ontario.k12.or.us), call or text at 1-208-398-3194. You may also contact me for suggestions, questions and concerns at any time. We appreciate your flexibility and patience and look forward to communicating individually with seniors about their graduation status in the days to come and seeing all of the students grades 9-11 in google classrooms on Monday.

With a heart for our kids and families,

Dr. Elizondo