

HALDANE COVID-19 Q&A

*Highlights from Dr. Benante's April 23
Webinar for the Haldane Community*

**[View the Webinar
on the COVID-19 tab of the Haldane website.](#)**



Guests: Christine Jamin, ES Principal, Dr. MaryAnn Seelke, MS Principal, Julia Sniffen, HS Principal

Question:

Is it possible for a student to only have submitted a portion of the work and still pass a class?

Answer:

All grading decisions are being made with a “do no harm” philosophy. The third quarter grade is numeric and will primarily reflect the work done prior to March 12. If that work was sufficient to earn a passing numeric grade, that was recorded. If there was not enough work done, the student was afforded an Incomplete and is being given the opportunity to resolve the work. If a student’s work during Q3 of distance learning positively impacts their grade, it is included. College-level courses in the high school must follow the parameters given by the host universities, in order to ensure credit.

We have not yet made a final determination regarding fourth quarter grades. We encourage students to do as much of the assigned work as possible.

Question:

To clarify, if a student had a passing grade on March 12, will the transition work be added to their Q3 grade?

Answer:

We are trying to be cognizant of the fact that everyone’s lives changed considerably around March 15. We know that students have varying levels of support in their remote learning environments, and because of that we do not want these weeks to cause any harm to students’ grades. If students were able to complete Q3 work and that work positively contributes to their grade, the work is included. If a student’s ability to complete work was impaired, that change did not negatively impact their grade.

Question:

Have you considered how a potential change in grading may impact my child’s transcript and future college acceptance determinations?

Answer:

We are doing our due diligence in reviewing the information that colleges are providing regarding transcripts and the college application process. We are also in regular communication with other regional high schools. As we make determinations about Q4 grading, one of our priorities will be to ensure that we do no harm to students who will be applying to colleges in the coming years.

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Question:

I know the Regents exams were cancelled. Were Regents exams factored into final course averages in the past and, if so, how will this be addressed in my child's end-of-year grades?

Answer:

Historically, the calculation of Regents grades varied by department. In the absence of Regent exams this year, we are discussing potential grade calculation changes with the high school department chairs. There are many details that must be considered in determining fourth quarter grades, and we are taking the time to carefully consider the implications of our decisions.

Question:

Are AP exams scores factored into GPA and will bonus points be awarded to students who take the AP exams?

Answer:

AP exam scores are not factored into GPA and Haldane is not awarding bonus points to students who take AP exams. However, it is important to note that AP course are more heavily weighted in GPA calculations. We are encouraging all AP students to take the exams.

Question:

Have there been considerations made for students who have IEPs and normally receive accommodations in school?

Answer:

Meetings with parents have continued through this time, and resource teachers and special educators are working to ensure that students have the support and care they need. Parents are encouraged to reach out to teachers or principals if they feel their child needs additional support.

Question:

Is there an expectation that elementary students submit photos to PE, Art, and Music teachers to verify that work is completed?

Answer:

Photos are not required. Each special area teacher has a Google Classroom where a student or parent can submit a comment about the work completed. Some parents are helping younger users respond via email. Credit is being given in a multitude of ways. Teachers are enjoying the connections that come from student photos and videos, but they are certainly not required.

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Question:

Will high school transcripts be sent to colleges on time?

Answer:

Mid-year transcripts were all sent in February, and we anticipate that final transcripts will be sent in the usual timeframe of a week or so after the school year ends. That said, all information that we are receiving from colleges and universities indicates that they are being flexible during this time.

Question:

What is the schedule for teachers posting Middle School assignments?

Answer:

The uniform hours for posting assignments to Google Classroom are Monday-Friday between 7:00 am and 9:00 am. This allows students make their plan for completing work for the day. There is a schedule on the Middle School homepage that provides weekly grade level meetings and office hours when teachers are available to answer questions or assist students in real time.

Question:

How will the end of year celebrations be handled in each school?

Answer:

The administrators are discussing options for each of Haldane's traditional special activities, including moving up ceremonies, awards nights, and graduation. As we learn more about the school closure, we will finalize plans and send complete information to families with details for each of these events.

Question:

Have plans been made for potential disruptions when we return to school in the fall? What flexibility does Haldane have for decision making outside of direction from Governor Cuomo?

Answer:

We are planning now to account for potential disruptions in the fall. As we consider modifications that may be needed when we return to campus, we will continue to improve our Continuity of Learning Plan and remote learning procedures. In addition to the direction we receive from New York State, we will also work closely with the Putnam County Department of Health regarding timing and health precautions for the reopening of school.