

# Canastota Central School District

120 Roberts Street, Canastota, New York 13032 • 315.697.2025

## District Office

Nicholas A. Panuccio  
School District Business Leader

Shawn D. Bissetta  
Superintendent of Schools



April 24, 2020

Dear Families,

I hope that you and your entire family are doing well as we navigate through the challenges of the coronavirus pandemic. The school has been doing its best to ensure that the lines of communication remain fully open to students and their families during this unprecedented time. Our obligation to families includes not only providing students with challenging assignments and a variety of resources that encourage learning, but also to offer quality feedback that assesses progress made in prioritized areas of the curriculum. While learning undoubtedly has looked different in recent weeks, our expectations for continued academic growth and development remain the same.

Given the fact that teachers no longer have daily face-to-face contact with students, we realize the way we provide feedback can and should look different. Our objective is to implement a system of assessment and feedback that takes into account the variables that are now injected into the learning process. In this correspondence, you will find detailed information from our building principals outlining the manner in which students will receive feedback for the remainder of the shutdown period. While feedback will look different when comparing the elementary versus secondary setting, you will notice two common themes:

1. The focus is on encouraging the continuation of learning, not assigning a traditional grade to an assignment. Learning is the priority, not simply grading.
2. A premium is being placed on providing comments that specifically speak to the level of engagement of each student. We realize that everyone needs to be patient as we get acclimated to this new learning environment – we don't expect perfection, but we do expect engagement and participation.

Once again, we appreciate your patience as we adjust to our new circumstances. Please review the two attached letters outlining the updated grading format, and don't hesitate to reach out to your child's main office or guidance office if you have any questions.

Sincerely,  
Shawn Bissetta  
Superintendent of Schools

**\*Please see pages 2 - 4 for information from building principals about how students will receive specific feedback while school is closed.**

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## Learning & Grading Plan for Grades K-6

Peterboro Street Elementary School  
South Side Elementary School  
Roberts Street Elementary School

Dear Families,

The focus of our blended learning model for instruction during the 3rd and 4th quarter will focus on increasing student engagement, timely and specific teacher feedback and cultivating student ownership for their own learning. Virtual teaching and remote learning is a process and we felt it was critical to exercise patience and grace as we all acclimate ourselves to this form of blended learning experiences. As always, our central focus is on increasing student engagement, facilitating student success and supporting students' social-emotional health and well-being.

While school remains closed, elementary students will not receive numeric grades on individual report cards. Teachers and support staff will focus their communication on timely and specific feedback through thoughtful and genuine report card comments. They have collaborated around student work and previous levels of achievement to provide you with the most accurate snapshot of where your child is in relation to achieving grade level standards and overall expectations.

- 3rd and 4th Quarter Assessment of Learning: Timely and Specific Feedback
- 3rd and 4th Quarter Report Cards: Thoughtful and Genuine Comments that address:
  - Academic Growth
  - Behavior Recognition
  - Academic Needs
  - Behavior Challenges

Although we are currently navigating a new normal during this interruption of instruction, the expectations for student work and learning outcomes has not changed and we are fiercely committed to moving our school district forward regardless of the circumstances.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Carnahan, Peterboro Street Elementary Principal  
Robert Taube, South Side Elementary Principal  
Michael Faustino, Roberts Street Elementary Principal

## Learning & Grading Plan for Grades 7-12

Canastota Junior/Senior High School

Dear Students, Parents and Caregivers:

Education and learning continue to be our focus as we work through our new normal regarding our response to the Coronavirus pandemic and our distance learning format. Our goal is to consider the different circumstances and situations of each student and family and to therefore implement a fair and equitable grading system. The information below will inform you of how we will grade and assess students while school is closed. We will continue to offer distance learning opportunities and will continue to work with students and families to address learning and access issues moving forward.

### 3rd Marking Period Grades

Students in grades 9 - 12 will receive a *pass* or *incomplete* at the time of closure of the 3rd marking period on April 24th. Incomplete would mean that students would still have the opportunity to make up work and pass the marking period. Students in grades 7 & 8 will receive comments and feedback only.

### 4th Marking Period Grades

Beginning on Monday, April 27th, we will transition students in grades 7-12 to a 0-4 scoring rubric that will be used for grading while school is closed during the 4th quarter. Tests, quizzes, projects and other assignments will be scored using this 0-4 scoring rubric.

The rubric below provides a visual representation of how each assignment will be scored/assessed.

Scoring Rubric	
4	Student has completed 100% of the assignment.
	The work was of high quality.
3	Student has completed 75% of the assignment.
	The work was of average quality.
2	Student has completed 50% of the assignment.
	The work was of below average quality.
1	Student has completed only 25% of the assignment.
	The work was of poor quality.
0	Student exhibited no effort and failed to complete/submit the assignment.

## **Final Averages**

At this time, the students' final averages will be calculated using the average of the 1st, 2nd, and 4th marking periods. If a 3rd marking period average (the average at the time of the closure - March 13) would help a student, teachers have the option of utilizing that grade to increase the student's overall average. We would not use the 3rd marking period average if it negatively impacts the student.

We hope this provides the necessary guidance you need to understand our grading system while school is closed. Thank you for your support and please reach out and let us know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Jay Altobello, Principal

Stan Congden, Assistant Principal/Athletic Director

Andrew Kennedy, Assistant Principal