



WS/FCS High School Families,

The teachers, principals and Central Office staff want to thank you for your support, flexibility, and the encouragement of your child during this unprecedented time in our country and educational system. Learning remotely has worked well for some students and has been extremely challenging for others. We recognize this challenge and want to thank you for all you have done to support your child and to take advantage of the open office hour instructional support your child's teachers have provided.

We also want to publicly thank our amazing teachers. In a very short period of time, they had to quickly learn new online platforms, create Canvas modules, learn new curriculum units and digital textbook resources, and learn to teach virtually. This has been a momentous task and we are so proud of their ingenuity and resilience.

As per State Board Policy TEST-003 and our district's AR 5124, EOC and CTE exams will count as 20% of students' final grade for their course. In light of change to remote learning and the reduced instructional hours, WS/FCS has decided to utilize our flexibility to set the minimum score for students who sit for their state required EOC and CTE exams. Students who complete their EOC and/or CTE exams will earn no lower than a 60 on the exam(s). The higher of either the 60 or their actual exam score will be entered in PowerSchool as 20% of their course grade. Of course, we want all students to study and be well-prepared for their exam, as it will factor into their GPA and will appear on transcripts available to colleges/universities, but we also need to recognize the unique learning environment our students have experienced.

This decision to use 60 as the minimum score for the EOC and CTE exams also aligns with the decision made by many other school districts in our state and will allow our students' scores to be issued in a comparable method as other high school students in North Carolina, thus creating a more equitable grading practice. We hope that by using a 60 as the minimum score, we can reduce the test anxiety of many of our students and will provide the opportunity for the exams to only improve overall grades.

If a student does not take the exam on their scheduled date in January, an "Incomplete" will be entered in PowerSchool. Students with an "Incomplete" will not earn credit for the course and may impact credit for promotion, graduation, and athletic participation. This year, the state extended the test window and will allow students to take their exam by June 2021. Our recommendation, however, is to strongly encourage all students to take the exam as soon as possible while the information is fresh. Taking the exam months after a course has ended will cause more difficulty demonstrating understanding of the material.

Each school has planned their testing sessions to include reduced numbers of students, social distancing, hand sanitizers, require masks, and will require all test administrators and students to complete a health screening. Principals and school staff have developed plans to create a safe testing environment for students.

Please encourage your child to study for their exams and use this opportunity to show their teachers, the state, colleges/universities, and most importantly themselves that they have persevered through this difficult time and have demonstrated mastery of the content standards.

Thank you for supporting your child and our teachers.