



Information Regarding Grading, Courses, & Senior Events

April 17, 2020

Dear Students & Families of DV Communications, Design, and Science,

We continue to be grateful for your support during these challenging and uncertain times. We feel proud to have been able to offer a continuous educational experience for your students since we transitioned to virtual instruction on Monday, March 16th. We are grateful to our staff, students, and families for their perseverance, feedback, and - most importantly - trust as we strive to ensure an engaging and relevant educational experience for all students.

We understand and acknowledge that this global pandemic affects all of us differently. Some families have been able to continue on with relatively little disruption to their lives, and some families have had significant disruption to their lives, including uncertainty about the physical, financial, and mental health of themselves and those whom they care about. We have spent time this past week examining the information available to us regarding how high schools, colleges, and universities are approaching grading for this term. It is our hope that the grading plan and options presented here consider each student's unique circumstances and meet the needs of the student during this challenging time.

It is important to note that we have made several adjustments to our normal curriculum as a result of this switch to the virtual environment. Teachers have adapted their curriculum and plans for the semester, eliminating some content and focusing on what learning goals are essential for the rest of the year. Additionally, we have adjusted the school schedule to lessen the amount of time required of students in front of the computer and to allow students more time to work asynchronously - meaning not at the same time as the teacher, and whenever the student is available to work.

In summary, here's what we have already done:

- Adjusted our curriculum to focus on the most essential learning targets
- Adjusted the school day schedule to allow a balance of computer-based/non-computer-based instructional time
- Adjusted the weekly schedule to allow students to have time to complete their schoolwork and receive school support services on Fridays
- Implemented more asynchronous opportunities for students - the ability to work on school work whenever it is convenient for the student
- Offered office hours for students to get quick help from their teachers on a consistent schedule
- Requested that teachers allow 24 hours for students to submit assignments or assessments from the day and time when it was assigned
- Issued chromebooks to any student in need of a device for virtual instruction

Moving forward, we plan to make the following change to our current grade scale for all students: **Students who do not pass their class for the semester will receive an NCR (No Credit) designation on their transcript**

instead of the usual I (Incomplete) or F (Fail) grade. This means that the NCR grade will not affect a student's overall GPA. If the class is needed to complete graduation requirements, the student will be required to retake the class and earn a passing grade in order to earn a diploma in their expected year of graduation.

We will also be providing an option for students who continue to struggle with the switch to virtual instruction. **With parent permission, students who are impacted by COVID-19 and related issues may request to switch all courses for the semester to a CR (Credit) / NCR (No Credit) grading scale.** This would mean that the student's grades for this semester would not have any effect on their overall GPA either positively or negatively. This option might be most suitable for students who have been high-performing, but due to the current circumstances and their individual context, are unable to perform at the same level and would prefer to keep their cumulative GPA steady during these challenging times. Students who pursue this option would be unable to earn honors credit for a course, as the requirement for honors credit is a B- or higher in the course.

We understand that this is a lot of information to digest, so we have compiled it in a Question and Answer format for you, as well. Please read this thoroughly and reach out to your respective school leaders if you have any questions.

We want to do our best to continue to provide opportunities for students in the long-term while acknowledging that adjustments need to be made in the short-term. We welcome your thoughts and feedback and look forward to encouraging and supporting your students in the weeks to come.

Sincerely,

Erin D'Souza
Da Vinci Communications
Principal

Veronica Rodriguez
Da Vinci Design
Principal

Steve Wallis
Da Vinci Science
Principal

Questions & Answers Regarding Grading & Courses

Are there any adjustments to the grade scale for all students for this semester?

Yes, the grade scale will be adjusted to replace the grade of I (Incomplete) with a grade of NCR (No Credit) so that students who do not pass their class will not have their GPA negatively impacted. If the class is needed to complete graduation requirements, the student will be required to retake the class and earn a passing grade in order to earn a diploma in their expected year of graduation. Please see the details of the new grade scale below:

Letter Grade	Percent Range	GPA Points	Graduation Status
A	95 - 100	4.000	Counts for progress toward graduation.
A-	87 - 94	3.667	Counts for progress toward graduation.
B+	79 - 86	3.333	Counts for progress toward graduation.
B	70 - 78	3.000	Counts for progress toward graduation.
B-	62 - 69	2.667	Counts for progress toward graduation.
C+	54 - 61	2.333	Counts for progress toward graduation.
C	45 - 53	2.000	Counts for progress toward graduation.
C-	37 - 44	1.667	Counts for progress toward graduation.
NCR (No Credit)	Less than 37	N/A: This grade will not affect a student's GPA.	Does not count for progress toward graduation.

Can I take all of my classes for CR (Credit) / NCR (No Credit)?

Yes, students who are struggling with physical, financial, or mental health challenges during this time [may request](#) to switch all courses for the semester to a CR (Credit) / NCR (No Credit) grading scale. This would mean that the student's cumulative GPA would not increase or decrease because the classes would not count toward the student's GPA. Please note that there is not an option to switch only certain classes - either all of a student's classes would remain on the traditional scale, or they would all switch to the CR/NCR scale below. This option might be most suitable for students who have been high-performing, but due to the current circumstances and their individual context, are unable to perform at the same level and would prefer to keep their cumulative GPA steady during these challenging times. Students who pursue this option would be unable to earn honors credit for a course, as the requirement for honors credit is a B- or higher in the course. The Universities of California (UCs) as well as the California State Universities (CSUs) have indicated that they will accept grades of CR in place of letter grades to show successful completion of any required a - g courses completed during this semester. Please see the [joint statement between the colleges, universities, State Board of Education and the Department of Education](#) for more information. Any grades of NCR would not be counted as successful completion of a course, and the course may need to be retaken if needed for graduation. If a request for a switch to this grade scale is granted, the decision cannot be reversed at a later date.

Letter Grade	Percent Range	GPA Points	Graduation Status
CR (Credit)	37 - 100	N/A	Counts for progress toward graduation.
NCR (No Credit)	0 - 36	N/A	Does not count for progress toward graduation.

How can I switch to the CR (Credit) / NCR (No Credit) option for this semester?

If you would like to switch to the CR (Credit) / NCR (No Credit) option for this semester, please complete [this form](#) on or before Wednesday, May 6, 2020. In order for this change to take effect, school site staff will review the request, confirm with your guardian that this change is preferred, and notify you of the decision. All requests must be made on or before Wednesday, May 6, 2020. Once a request to switch to the CR/NCR grade scale is granted, it cannot be reversed.

Can I still get honors credit for my courses?

Yes. In order to do this, you must remain on the traditional grade scale so that you earn a letter grade for the class. If you earn a B- or higher in a course in which honors is offered and you demonstrate mastery of the additional content required, you can still get the honors designation on your transcript. Successful completion of honors level coursework will be determined at the end of the semester. Honors designations will be present on report cards and transcripts in June 2020.

When is the last date to submit any course work for the semester?

June 1, 2020 is the last day to submit any course work for the semester. The remaining days will be used for teachers to review and evaluate work submitted as well as student Presentations of Learning (POLs).

If I'm a senior, do I have to pass all my classes to graduate?

Yes. Students in the Class of 2020 are required to show a passing letter grade or a designation of CR (Credit) for all classes required for graduation. Receipt of diploma is contingent on successful completion of the required courses for graduation. Students who do not complete the courses required for graduation will not be eligible to earn a diploma or participate in the graduation ceremony.

Do I still get a grade for Advisory?

No. Though it is our expectation that students continue to check-in with their advisors at this time, there will not be any grades given for Advisory this semester.

Do I still get a grade for my seminar classes?

No. Students will be disenrolled from all seminar classes this semester, effective March 16, 2020.

Do I still have to do my credit recovery courses through APEX?

Yes. If you are enrolled in a course on APEX, this is because you need to pass this class for graduation. Please complete the course as soon as possible (and prior to June 1, 2020) and connect with your teacher or counselor if you have any questions or concerns.

Are we still going to do Presentations of Learning (POLs) at the end of the semester?

Yes. Presentations of Learning are an important part of our educational program, and they can be done virtually. Each school may conduct the presentations differently, so it is best to contact your student's school and their teachers in order to get the best information about student expectations for POLs. More information regarding POLs will be provided at a later date.

Will there be summer school?

Yes. Da Vinci will be holding summer school, but it is not yet determined whether it will be virtual instruction or in-person instruction. More information regarding summer school will be provided at a later date.

Questions Regarding Senior Events

Will there be a graduation ceremony for the Class of 2020?

Yes. Although the current graduation date in June has been postponed, we are committed to holding graduation ceremonies on campus/in person when it is safe to do so.

Will senior activities continue as planned?

No. Due to school closures, all senior activities, including Prom and Grad Night, have been canceled.

Will students who paid for the senior activities receive a refund?

Yes, families can email the appropriate office manager to request a refund:

- Communications: Jackie Martinez, jmartinez@davincischools.org
- Design: Maria Beltran, mbeltran@davincischools.org
- Science: Liz Valle, evalle@davincischools.org

Please include the following information in the email:

1. Name of family member to make the check out to
2. Address where check should be mailed to
3. Copy of receipt issued to parent or student

How will yearbooks and/or senior apparel be distributed?

Though it is too early to determine the exact method of distribution, we remain committed to distributing yearbooks and senior apparel when we receive them. Items will either be available for pickup on designated dates and times or mailed to homes. Please login to SchoolMint to ensure that we have your correct mailing address on file.

Will seniors receive a celebration and/or recognition?

Yes, each school is working on plans to virtually celebrate and recognize the achievements of the Class of 2020. Details will be made available soon.

How and when will diplomas be distributed?

Though it is too early to determine the exact method of distribution, diplomas may be distributed by pickup on designated dates and times or mailed to homes. There will also be a need to collect any equipment and clear all balances. Receipt of diploma is contingent upon the following:

- Passed Classes Needed for Graduation
- Zero Balance Owed to School
- No Equipment Owed to School (i.e. student chromebooks, etc.)
- Parking Permit Returned
- Elevator Fob Returned (if applicable)
- Naviance: Updated Status of Applications and Final College Selected
- Naviance: Exit Survey Completed