

**Stephen F. Dockray**  
*Superintendent-Director*

**Michael J. Procaccini**  
*Principal*

**Daniel Haynes**  
*Business Manager*



## TRI • COUNTY

REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL  
147 POND STREET • FRANKLIN • MASSACHUSETTS 02038  
Telephone: 508-528-5400 • Administration Fax: 508-528-6074  
Business Office Fax: 508-528-3698 • [www.tri-county.us](http://www.tri-county.us)

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Franklin, Medfield,  
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Wrentham

4/29/2020

TC Parents/Guardians,

I hope this email finds you and your family well. In light of Gov. Baker's decision to extend remote learning until the end of the year I wanted to contact you with some modifications and some further clarification of the plan put in place April 7, 2020.

Beginning this week, we have begun following the TC School Calendar for the purposes of scheduling classes. This week is an A week with seniors and sophomores in academics and freshmen and juniors in shop. Previously we combined our weeks and treated shop as an extra class on our academic schedule. When we thought remote learning was for a few weeks this made sense. However, there are many shop programs where contact hours are a critical part of the student's vocational certifications and we realized that if we were going to finish the year remotely we could not continue on the original remote learning schedule. Next week will be B week and so on for the rest of the year.

There have been many questions regarding grading and student engagement in remote learning. One change Commissioner Riley put forth last week was a focus on "power standards" or those standards that students must master to be successful in the following year. At the same time, he kept the recommendation that work be graded credit/no credit or as many describe as Pass/Fail. So the question becomes how do we grade this work for the Third Trimester and how will it figure into the students' overall grade for the year?

The final year end grade (Y1) for each student will be the average of the first trimester (T1) and the second trimester (T2), plus up to 10 additional points for work completed during the third trimester (T3). Students will be awarded additional points for assignments completed during the third trimester (T3) based on the 10 - point scale. For example, if 30 assignments were required in a course during the third trimester (T3) and a student completed 27, or 90% of the assignments, they would receive an extra 10 points for the year (Y1). This change would equate to an increase of an entire letter grade for the end of the year grade.

We understand this gives little motivation to the A student, but it gives significant motivation to the marginal student to do the work. This means that all engagement in this year's learning will help to assure your student's competence with the content they will need to start the next year. While a Credit/No Credit status can seem like a disincentive for work completion, acquiring the knowledge base of the content that students are currently being assigned is critical to their academic preparedness moving forward. Power School allows us to record year end grades in excess of 100. This numeric year end grade would factor into GPA for all students and it is my hope that those that already have high grades will do the work for this added bump to their GPA and class rank.

Any Trimester 3 assignment can be completed through the end of the year, if a student missed a couple over the past few weeks they can go back and complete those assignments until June 12. This is by no means a perfect system and we understand that, but we are trying to follow the DESE guidelines the best we can for our particular school and our particular students.

I understand that you may have several other questions. We will be providing more information in the coming days regarding access to the school for personal items, graduation, prom, and other end of year celebrations. There are several factors that go into planning these things, many beyond our control at school. We ask for your patience and appreciate the cooperation and support we have received from all of you.

Thank you and stay well,

*Mike Procaccini*

Principal