



Wellsville Secondary School
Lions together...just apart for a while!

April 16, 2020

Dear Secondary School Families,

WE STILL MISS YOU! As you are aware, our tentative return to school continues to be pushed back as the COVID-19 situation develops. We are making plans to ensure our students successfully finish the year with the same strength and enthusiasm with which we began.

New York State's cancellation of June Regents and local final exams allows students to focus on learning without the pressure of test preparation. Beginning the week of April 20th, our courses will shift from supplemental instruction to new instruction and assignments that will be included in the 4th marking period.

We are aware that learning at home can be stressful for students and their families. We have put considerable modifications in place with instructional expectations and grading policies so our students will be able to have a successful 4th quarter and earn course credit.

Expectations for Students:

- Students are expected to participate and complete assignments in all courses to the best of their ability.
- Assignments will be smaller and more manageable.
- A uniform grading policy will be in place for all courses grades 6-12.
- Students will have the opportunity to connect with their teachers for assistance during daily "Office Hours" via Zoom video conference.
- Students who encounter difficulty completing the work at home can contact teachers, counselors or administrators directly. Assistance will be provided.
- Teachers will begin new instruction by posting assignments according to this chart:

Schedule for Posting Assignments

Marking Period 4

(Starting April 20, 2020)

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Instruction and assignments by subject	Math, Science & LOTE (Spanish/French)	English (ELA) and Social Studies	Math, Science & LOTE (Spanish/French)	English (ELA) & Social Studies	Unified Arts, HS Electives, Music, and Health
Physical Education - small daily activity choice					
*Teachers will post assignments by 9:00am on the day each course is listed.					

Course Guidelines:

- Course assignments and instructional materials will be posted by 9:00am.
- Core subject areas (Math, ELA, SS, Science, LOTE) - 2 assignments per week
- HS Electives, Unified Arts, Music - 1 assignment per week
- PE - 1 daily activity with one participation grade entered per week
- Graded assignments will be worth 10 points. Points will be translated into a percentage for final grade calculation.
- Due dates assigned by teachers will generally fall within 3-5 school days from the date assigned.
- Students who miss a due date will be given the chance to resubmit work, up until the end of the marking period.

WSS Office Hours - Connecting Students and Teachers by Zoom

Imagine for a minute (a happy minute) that we are back at school and you have a question about an assignment your teacher gave you a couple of days ago. You know your teacher is free during a certain time of the day, so you plan on stopping by to ask your question. You stop in, say hello, catch up for a minute or two, and get the direction you need to finish that assignment before you head out and get on with your day.

Now flash forward to our current state of online learning. Substitute the in-person visit for the virtual environment called Zoom (we'll explain that in a bit if you are not sure what this is.) This platform is your way to connect with your teachers and get the help you want.

A schedule for students is included in this mailing. Students are not required to attend or "join," but we encourage everyone to use it as often as you need or want to.

- Students can "join" a teacher in a meeting at any time during the posted "Office Hours" schedule (other times may be arranged as specific needs arise.)
- Students can ask about assignments.
- It is also a chance to simply stop in and say hello, to connect, and check-in.
- Teachers will be able to talk with students in small groups to provide feedback on assignments and/or to provide additional support for students.



Zoom, a virtual environment to meet with your teachers

Over the past few weeks, we have been working with Zoom to better ensure that we are providing safety measures to our students while using this form of student-teacher conferencing.

- Students cannot create accounts or sign in to Zoom on their iPads. This means students cannot

initiate their own Zoom video conference on the district iPad.

- Students can only accept Zoom invitations from their teachers.
- Teachers will provide students with a password to access Zoom.
- Teachers will use the Zoom “Waiting Room” feature to ensure only authorized users enter the room.

District-issued iPads have the same content filtering and restrictions in place at home as in school. However, student use of technology resources (including district-issued iPads) should be supervised. Although we don’t anticipate filtering and/or Zoom issues, if you become aware of a problem, please contact your child’s teacher or a school administrator so that we may work with you to resolve it.

In the next few days, when your child connects to the Internet on his/her district-issued iPad, the Zoom application will download on the iPad.

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This is a lot of information to take in, but we hope that it provides a clear picture of what learning will look like in the 4th marking period and what our school community can expect on a day-to-day basis in order to end the year strong.

We are always available to answer questions. Please email our administrative team.



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