

Hancock Central School District

The Wildcat Pledge: We nurture and empower each learner's unlimited capacity to become a responsible citizen with a promising future.

Our Vision: Striving for excellence as an innovative, advanced and reflective school community.

Core Beliefs:

- **Our mindset:** We do whatever it takes to ensure continuous growth because we believe each of us can learn.
- **Collaboration:** We work better together, always.
- **Innovation:** We embrace creativity and advancing technology.
- **Integrity:** We trust, respect, support and care for one another.
- **Learning environment:** Our approach is engaging, learner-centered and adaptable to individual needs.
- **Student centered:** We put students first.

June 15, 2020

Dear Hancock families:

The Hancock Central School District Modified Grading System© will be implemented for all students in Grades K-8 for the 2019-2020 school year. For your reference, enclosed please find a Parent's Guide and the Summary Check-up Report template. Final reports for students in Grades K-8 will be direct mailed to families at the end of June.

Please direct any questions to your child(ren)'s building administrator.

Thank you for your time and effort.

Julie Bergman
PreK-12 Principal

Jackie Beamer
Director of Pupil Personnel

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May 4, 2020

Dear Hancock Parents/Guardians:

The Hancock Central School District has developed a comprehensive alternative grading system to gauge student progress during the state-mandated school closure due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which has forced the implementation of remote-learning platforms world-wide during the second half of the 2019-20 school year.

The HCSD Modified Grading System ©, authored by Superintendent Terrance P. Dougherty, Ph.D., presents an equity-based approach to evaluating student progress toward the accomplishment of key learning outcomes. This innovative model blends prior student work, teacher feedback, and student self-assessment to help educators determine final grades for the 2019-20 academic year. The model differentiates between grades K-8 and 9-12.

In grades K-8, a scoring tool known as a rubric will be used to determine a final proficiency rating for each student, which takes into consideration the first three quarters of in-building education as well as the fourth quarter of remote learning. Each student will receive an assessment rating of either minimally proficient, proficient, advanced proficient, or advanced proficient with distinction. Students assessed as minimally proficient will move to the next grade level after attending summer school or an enrichment equivalent. All other ratings will advance to the next grade level as well.

In grades 9-12, inclusive of eighth-graders working toward high school credits, a grade will be calculated based on a combination of student performance during the first three quarters, teacher assessment of student achievement during the remote-learning period, a student self-assessment, and an administrator assessment.

The HCSD Modified Grading System © implementation has the support of the Board of Education. Hancock is committed to providing continuous communication with all stakeholders via direct mailings, media releases, updates to the District website www.hancock.stier.org as well as Facebook and Twitter. Hancock is committed to preparing its students for college and life and to providing the best possible learning opportunities during this challenging time. Hancock will continue to provide instructional continuity to ensure our students' learning outcomes do not suffer during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Educationally Yours,

Julie Bergman, Pre-K-12 Principal

Jackie Beamer, Director of Pupil Personnel

Hancock Central School District Modified Grading System©

**A Parents' Guide to the
2019-20 Year-End Summative Evaluation Check-Up for Students in Grades K-8**

Introduction:

The COVID-19 pandemic caused school buildings to close after the first half of the 2019-20 school year and instruction to shift to a remote learning environment. This presents various challenges for students in accessing learning experiences that meet their needs and in demonstrating mastery to their teachers. This also presents challenges for teachers in providing the high-quality instructional services we offer in our buildings and in assessing student progress.

The Hancock Central School District is dedicated to preparing our students for college, life, and work beyond school and is committed to ensuring the best possible learning opportunities for students in this challenging situation. It is our deeply held commitment that our students' learning trajectories will not suffer during this pandemic crisis, and we are taking every possible action to ensure instructional continuity. To this end, the *HCSO Modified Grading System©* features innovative scoring through a blended approach to evaluating student learning progress using prior student work, teacher feedback and student self-assessment for pupils in grades K-8.

Scoring: Student Progress Rating Level

The *Student Progress Rating Level* assigned to your child represents a fully integrated and comprehensive assessment of his/her academic performance in all subject areas during the 2019-20 school year. Prior student work, teacher feedback and a student self-assessment have been evaluated by your son/daughter's teachers and the building principal to calculate a final, overall *Student Progress Rating Level*. In addition, specific hardship modifiers, e.g. economic status as measured by participation in free and reduced priced lunch program; special education status as measured by IEP or 504 status; cultural/language considerations as measured by ENL and ELL status; and technology accessibility as measured by availability of internet or device access in the household (assessed via district-administered survey) will factor into the *Student Progress Level Rating* calculation. Lastly, all students have been assigned a weighted "effort" modifier to account for the extremely disruptive learning conditions imposed upon them by the COVID-19 pandemic. The *Student Progress Rating Level* is calculated by your child's building principal and is available for review by parents upon request to the building administrator.

Scoring: Student Proficiency Ratings

As a culminating grade for the school year, your child has been assigned a final, overall measure of proficiency (*Student Proficiency Rating*) to capture the District's best prediction of your son/daughter's level of readiness to succeed with rigorous academic work at the next grade level. The *Student Proficiency Rating* is listed on your child's *2019-20 HCSO Modified Grading System© Year-End Summary Check-Up Report*.

Definitions of Student Proficiency Ratings:

The three levels of *Student Proficiency Ratings* are listed below:

- Minimally Proficient- The student rarely demonstrated basic academic proficiency that predicts his/her ability to succeed at the next grade level. Attendance in HCS virtual summer school is strongly recommended.
- Proficient- The student consistently demonstrated basic proficiency that predicts his/her ability to succeed at the next grade level.
- Advanced Proficiency (With Distinction)- The student consistently demonstrated exemplary proficiency that predicts his/her ability to succeed with accelerated work at the next grade level or beyond.

Accelerated Eighth-Grade Students:

All accelerated eighth-grade students who have successfully completed Spanish or a pre-approved high school course will receive a transcript-relatable numerical score and corresponding course credit. The transcript-relatable score is noted on his/her *2019-20 HCSD Modified Grading System© Year-End Summary Check-Up Report*.

Recommendation for Grade Placement in the 2020-21 School Year:

Your child's *2019-20 HCS Modified Grading System© Year-End Summary Check-Up Report* indicates the District's recommended grade placement for him/her in the 2020-21 school year. This recommendation will be marked as follows: *promotion with distinction, promotion, or promotion with virtual summer school strongly recommended*.

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2019-20 HCSD Modified Grading System© Year-End

Summary Check-up Report

Hancock Elementary School students will receive one of the following definitions of four *Student Progress Rating Levels* (Novice, Apprentice, Practitioner, and Master) as well as an overall, final **Student Proficiency Rating** for the 2019-2020 school year: **Minimally Proficient, Proficient, Advanced Proficient, or Advanced Proficient with Distinction**. Your child's final **Student Proficiency Rating** is listed below and replaces the traditional student report cards in grades K-2 and grade point averages for students in grades 3-8 that would normally be given when school is in session for a full year.

Student Name: _____

Grade: _____

Your Child's Proficiency Rating for the 2019-2020 school year:

The District recommends for the 2020-21 school year that your child receive:

Promotion with Distinction ____

Promotion ____

Promotion with Virtual Summer School Strongly Recommended ____

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to the Hancock Elementary School office at 607-637-1219 or Middle School Office 607-637-1305.

Building Administrator

Date