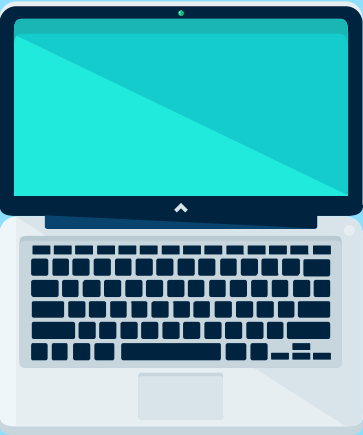


WELCOME!

Welcome to the first edition of our WVA Secondary Sound-Byte! This will be our one-stop shop of information for parents and students. We will use this resource to periodically update parents with information you need to know to help your student(s) be successful in WVA.



Self-Pacing Info

WVA is a self-paced program. This refers to students working on their coursework any time of the day and any days of the week they want, but they still need to meet due-dates/established deadlines. Students should be actively engaged in their coursework an average of 20 hours/week.

Academic Integrity

When working online, students sometimes research or “Google” answers to questions. The copying and pasting of answers is considered academic dishonesty. Students should rewrite answers in their own words to show that they understand the material/content. Academic dishonesty may result in the student being directed to redo the work, or possibly a zero grade for the assignment.

Important Dates

October 23: Quarter 1 Report Cards available

October 15, 22 and November 24: MS Parent/Teacher conferences

December 18: End of Semester 1

Attendance

Every WVA student has weekly assignments and other coursework they are responsible for completing. Teachers are evaluating the weekly work that each student completes to determine if they have made adequate progress. Because students work at their own pace on a schedule convenient to them, teachers are also making sure they capture any work completed outside of traditional school hours, such as over the weekend. Items being considered include:

- Was the student engaged in their work? How much time was logged on their studies?
- What was the student’s progress on their weekly workload?
- Were assignments completed during that week sufficient to enable the student to finish the course on time at the end of the semester or school year?
- What other factors should be taken into account when evaluating a student’s progress (for example, completing an essay or a project will take longer than taking a quiz)?

Students determined to have made “adequate progress” will be credited for WVA course attendance. This will be reported according to their home school’s plan for documenting attendance. Staff members will be reaching out to students and parents/guardians via email and/or telephone if they see a student falling behind in a course and have not received communication as to why this is happening.

Grading

As we approach the end of the first quarter, below is information regarding how teachers should determine your WVA student's letter grade and overall course grade. Also, as we move into the 2nd quarter, information is shared specific to how this will be calculated.

Year-Long Courses

- For students that are beyond 25% done, teachers will calculate the points possible up to the 25% mark in the course. This will be done throughout the school year...that is, for example at the end of Semester 1, the grade a student had at the 50% point in the course will be calculated and entered.
- A Quality of Work grade will be used to calculate the 1st quarter grade. The Quality of Work Grade is the average grade a student has been receiving only on work submitted. Note this does not take into account any late assignments or assignments not completed.
- Corresponding comments on the grade card will indicate the percentage of course completion at the end of the 1st quarter.

Semester Courses (for those scheduled to conclude at the end of Semester 1, Dec. 18)

- For students that are beyond 50% done, teachers will calculate the points possible up to the 50% mark in the course.
- A Quality of Work grade will be used to calculate the 1st quarter grade. The Quality of Work Grade is the average grade a student has been receiving only on work submitted. Note this does not take into account any late assignments or assignments not completed.
- Comments on the grade card will indicate the percentage of course completion(s) at the end of the 1st quarter. If a student has less than 50% of the course completed, students with parent input should develop a plan for how many lessons need to be completed between now and December 18 to ensure course completion.

Semester courses scheduled to conclude at the end of Semester 1 must be entirely completed by (the end of Semester 1) on December 18, 2020

2nd Quarter Grading and Establishing Assignment Due Dates

- For the 1st quarter, students and teachers have learned how to navigate Apex and discovered the importance of pacing. As students enter the 2nd quarter, we recognize that embedding structure is imperative by ensuring that students are on pace to complete each course.
- Moving forward, for both the 2nd quarter interim and semester grade (for year-long courses), teachers will enter the letter grade based on the actual Grade to Date. When a teacher has assigned due dates, Grade to Date shows a student’s average for all completed and scored activities due at a specific point in time. Therefore, note that an interim and end of 2nd quarter grade will be issued that reflects the true work that should have been done to date, and at the mid-point (50%) of the course. To ensure the “Grade to Date” accurately reflects a student’s progress to date in the course, teachers will establish due dates in the gradebook.

Overall Course Grade

- In WVA, the final course grade will be what is attained in Apex. This differs from the traditional school experience in which quarter grades (and semester/final exams if applicable) are averaged to determine a final grade. Whatever letter grade a WVA student earns in Apex at the end of a semester or year-long course, is the final grade entered into PowerSchool. Also, just like in a traditional classroom, there are no course extensions or incompletes for semester or year-long courses. Therefore, students in a first semester only WVA Apex course, must have these courses completed by the end of the 2nd quarter (December 18, 2020), as a letter grade will be entered based on submitted work to that point.

Content and Course Updates

Principles of Health Sciences - MS

- Thank you to the parents that will be part of the focus group tomorrow, October 8. We will be reviewing the rest of the course and gathering feedback. Any updates to the Pacing Guide will be provided after that meeting.

Spanish 2 and 3 - HS

- As Spanish 2 and Spanish 3 content was adjusted during the second week of WVA, students had grades for the work that will now be part of the end of the course. Any grades given for that content will remain there. If a student is not satisfied with the grades earned on units/lessons/quizzes that were moved/removed during the re-alignment, please contact your teacher by October 12th.

iReady Diagnostics - All middle school students are to complete the iReady diagnostic, which should take approximately 90 minutes. If your student has not yet completed the iReady diagnostic, please reach out to to your ELA or mathematics teacher to schedule.

Questions?

Please email - wva@westerville.k12.oh.us

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