



## Focus Groups

We wish to thank all of the parents who joined us for the Middle School and High School Focus Group Meetings. We appreciate your comments and suggestions. They will help us continue to work to improve the education experience we offer your children. Below are the identified five (5) overarching themes conveyed during the meetings with specific summary sub-points shared. WVA leadership is working to address these points ... some of which are addressed in this Secondary Sound-Byte.

**1. Work Load / Courses Offerings / Apex Features**

- So much to read and learn.
- Students working all day and into evenings/weekends.
- Additional elective options needed for Middle School.
- Suggested features be added to Apex ... text to speech option have a choice of male/female voice and able to slow down or reverse speech; video instruction options (ie: math needs to be “taught” with mini lectures/videos for each topic); “search” tool in Apex to find specific answers/topics.

**2.Quiz/Test Question Feedback**

- After choosing the wrong answer on quizzes/tests, it would be helpful for the student to see what the correct answer should have been to learn from their choices.

**3.Pacing Guides / Unlocking Tests**

- Ensuring pacing guides are clear and communicated out.
- Need for tests to be unlocked in a timely manner.

**4. Teacher Office Hours / Attendance**

- Desire for teachers to be available/accessible consistently each day during a defined period

**5. WVA Student Involvement In School-Sponsored Activities**

- All students need to feel a part of the school with opportunities to engage in school-sponsored activities. Suggestion for clubs to meet virtually so students feel more a part of their school.

## Feedback on Quizzes and Tests - Accessible Starting Saturday, October 24, 2020

There is clearly an identified desire and need for our students to receive feedback on incorrect quiz responses. APEX has an updated option called Question Feedback that our district will enable. This option allows the display of feedback after each answer is submitted during computer-scored assessments. Feedback informs the student if the submitted answer is correct or incorrect. When the answer is incorrect, the feedback may provide additional prompts for answering the question or it may display the correct answer. The question types contained in a quiz cover not only knowledge questions, but also comprehension, application, and analysis questions related to the material.

Quizzes are generated from a bank of three to five questions for each question asked of students. For example there may be three to five different options to fill the slot for question number 1 on the quiz. Additionally, for each question, there are multiple combinations of answer banks that the computer randomly picks for the question. This means that the same question, on three different quizzes, could each have a different bank of answers to choose from.

When students retake a quiz, it is highly likely that they will have an entirely new set of questions. Should they get one of the original questions, they will most likely have a new set of answers to choose from. This feature discourages students from taking a quiz to find out what the correct answers are, and then retaking the quiz without studying.

WVA will automatically enable the Question Feedback feature in Apex beginning Saturday, October 24, 2020.

## Accelerations

If your student is interested in potentially accelerating into another course for the second semester, please make sure to complete the Acceleration Referral Form by October 31, 2020. You can access the form by [CLICKING HERE](#). Items to keep in mind when considering acceleration:

- All acceleration requests will be evaluated by the Office of Gifted Education before a determination is made. The acceleration referral form mentioned above must be submitted to begin the evaluation process.
- If a student completes one full course first semester and wants to accelerate into another year-long course at the beginning of second semester, he/she will need to demonstrate mastery of the material covered in the desired course during the first semester. Mastery is demonstrated through the acceleration evaluation process listed above.
- Acceleration referrals submitted after October 31st will be considered for the 2021-2022 school year.

### 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, the letter grade issued at interim and end of 2nd quarter grade will reflect the actual 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.

## Important Dates

**October 19 - November 6** - Window to Change Instructional Model

**October 29-30** - No School for Elementary Students (Conferences)

**October 30** - No School for Middle School Students (Conferences)

**November 3** - No School for Elem/MS/HS Students (Inservice Day for Teachers and Election Day)

**November 18** - Interim Grades Issued

**November 25-27** - No School for Elem/MS/HS (Thanksgiving Break)

**December 18** - End Quarter 2, End Semester 1

**January 5** - Start Quarter 3, Start Semester 2

## WVA Middle School Connections - MS Opportunities for Clubs/Engagement

We all realize that social connections are important for our middle school students. All four of the WCS middle schools continue to seek ways to include WVA students and their families as a part of their schools. WVA students can virtually participate in school activities such as being a member of a “house”, participating in weekly surveys and Action Challenges, and receiving grade level newsletters. WVA students can and do physically participate in middle school athletics. Additionally, all four of the middle school principals desire to engage WVA students and foster greater inclusion by working to open clubs for both WVA and blended-model students.

## Office Hours

Click on the school below to access office hours. Office hours can also be found on the district WVA website

[Westerville Central High School](#)

[Blendon Middle School](#)

[Westerville South High School](#)

[Genoa Middle School](#)

[Westerville North High School](#)

[Heritage Middle School](#)

[Walnut Springs Middle School](#)

## High School Courses- Midterm and Semester Final Exam Information

December 18 marks the end of the first semester. Traditionally, there is a separate exam grade indicated on the Report Card. This year, for all students, that will not be the case. WVA high school students, and those middle school students who are taking courses for high school credit, will take mid-term exams in a yearlong Apex course when they are half-way through it, and final exams when they reach the end of a course. Note that mid-term and final exams are a part of the running total of points that will be factored into the final course grade.

## Questions?

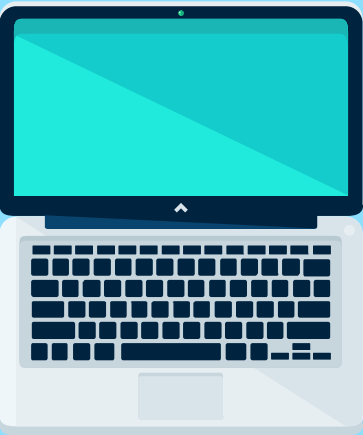
Please email - [wva@westerville.k12.oh.us](mailto:wva@westerville.k12.oh.us)

Brad Adams, WVA Program Administrator  
Dr. Scott Ebbrecht, Director, Assessment and Alternative Education Services  
Dr. Jennifer Knapp, Director, Secondary Curriculum and Instruction  
Scott Reeves, Executive Director, Secondary Academic Affairs



## 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.

## 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.

## 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

## 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](mailto:wva@westerville.k12.oh.us)

Brad Adams, WVA Program Administrator  
Dr. Scott Ebbrecht, Director, Assessment and Alternative Education Services  
Dr. Jennifer Knapp, Director, Secondary Curriculum and Instruction  
Scott Reeves, Executive Director, Secondary Academic Affairs