



Dec. 17, 2020

Dear Caledonia Community Schools family,

We hope you and your family are staying healthy and safe this holiday season and looking forward to the Holiday Break.

We know this school year has been extremely challenging for everyone due to the COVID-19 pandemic, especially our high school students. Between changes and adjustments to learning -whether in-person, virtual or a hybrid of the two - adapting to new technology or enduring mandatory self-quarantining, there's no doubt these students have been put to the test. As a school district, we have done our best to keep learning and academic rigor at the forefront, but we do recognize this unprecedented period has been uniquely challenging for many students.

With that in mind, I'd like to announce we have developed a Support and Remediation Plan, which aims to best support these students. We will be giving our high school students the option to choose grading by credit-only for the first semester, meaning individual classes can be made "credit/no-credit" without having an impact on a student's GPA.

Part of our rationale for giving students this option is most colleges and universities are also dropping letter grade requirements in favor of credit designation due to the many challenges the pandemic poses to students. We'd like to emphasize we're still holding up our academic standards and students who want a letter grade will still have that option. However, credit-only is simply another option we would like to give all high school students flexibility so they can succeed in the way that works best for them and account for the significant hurdles this school year has presented. We don't want the circumstances of this year to permanently impact a student's long-term future.

More information is coming directly from the high school administrative team right after the holiday break that will detail the options for students and families to think about so they can decide the best path forward. We will want parents, guardians and students to read the information carefully in order to make the best decision for themselves. Please keep in mind: The credit-only option may have implications for some colleges. Students will need to work with their teachers and counselors on deciding which option will best serve their needs and goals.

The Support and Remediation Plan will provide additional information on final exams, a new "incomplete" designation, and remediation steps for how students can get caught up before the end of the semester. Again, we encourage families to take the time over the break to read through the plan and consider all their options. The break is also an excellent time for students to catch up on any missing or incomplete work.

Thank you for your patience and consideration on these items, and we hope everyone has a safe, healthy and peaceful holiday season.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Dr. Dedrick Martin'.

Dr. Dedrick Martin, Superintendent