

**From:** Leslie Roach [mailto:noreply@iusd.org]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 15, 2020 12:51 PM  
**Subject:** NHS Update - April 15

Dear NHS community:

Hopefully by now you have received information about Irvine Unified School District's decision to shift all grading during the Spring 2020 term to a "Credit/No Credit" system. The Board of Education, in partnership with district- and site-level faculty and staff, wrestled with the issues and concerns raised during this uncertain time. And we at Northwood High School have done our utmost to rise to this opportunity and not to compromise the learning beyond what this crisis has already inflicted on all of us. Please know that we remain wholly committed to our students because they deserve our very best and we will continue to be driven by that core belief.

With that said, this is a really different time for all of us and it has forced us to change our normal routines and structures. We recognize that adding this change in grade reporting may surface a variety of feelings for our students and families, ranging from relief to anxiety. Each student is in a different place. We have some dealing with incredible challenges at home, while others hoped that this semester would help to maintain and/or, in some cases, increase GPAs. No matter where you are, please know that we are here for you and this decision was made in the interest of serving all students. And while grades, for better or worse, have traditionally been the standard by which we measure ourselves, I believe if students stay focused and engaged on the learning itself, each student will find incredible value in the experience that these historic times have pressed upon us.

Below are answers to some immediate questions you may have. In addition, the notification from IUSD Superintendent Terry Walker also included a detailed [FAQ document](#). We advise all families to review all of the relevant information as it relates to this decision and its impact.

### **Grade Point Average (GPA)**

Students will receive a grade of "CR" (credit) if they meet the minimum level of proficiency for the course, and "NC" (no credit) if they do not. Although "CR" will satisfy graduation requirements, it will not be calculated in the GPA.

### **College Admission / NCAA Eligibility**

Most college and university organizations, including the NCAA, have stated that they will accept "Credit" / "No Credit" grades in lieu of letter grades for high school courses completed in the Spring term of 2020. This includes [California State University \(CSU\)](#), [University of California \(UC\)](#), [California Community Colleges](#), and [independent nonprofit](#)

[colleges and universities](#) . We have also received assurances from [Stanford, Harvard, Yale, Columbia, USC, Northwestern, MIT, and Tulane](#) and many other that students will not be disadvantaged by this change.

### **Extracurricular Eligibility for Fall of 2020-2021**

The eligibility criteria for athletics and performance groups for next Fall will be completion of a minimum of four classes with a grade of “CR” (credit). The use of GPA for eligibility purposes will be eliminated to establish eligibility for the first quarter of the 2020-2021 season.

### **Course Placement and Recommendations for Next Year**

Teachers will be making recommendations for placement for the 2020-2021 school year. However, teachers will continue to gather evidence of learning to inform placement. Students with questions or concerns regarding placement or recommendations should contact their teacher or academic counselor. Typical course placement petitions will be available for students in the Fall during registration.

### **Dropping Non-Essential Courses**

Our 12th grade students will have the opportunity to drop certain courses deemed “**non-essential**” to their graduation status, without penalty. Examples of such courses are Student Assistant, Work Experience, Athletics, or other electives. If a student is interested in dropping a non-essential course they must enter the request at the following link: [LINK](#). Students should continue in these courses until they have confirmation they have been dropped.

***IMPORTANT:*** *It is extremely important that students check with the admissions office of the colleges or universities they plan to attend next Fall to ensure dropping a course does not jeopardize their admission status. This option is available to senior students only. The deadline for dropping these courses is Friday, May 1.*

There are a variety of courses for all students that are considered participatory, where credit is awarded based on hours engaged in the on-campus activity. As such, we will be dropping students from these courses as of the quarter and issuing 2.5 credits with a Pass or Fail. If you are in such a course and impacted, you will receive an email directly.

We would like to reiterate that transitioning away from letter grades for the remainder of this school year does not mean that students will not be learning or held accountable. Teachers, staff and administrators will remain focused on keeping our students highly engaged, connected, and invested in their learning. Teachers will continue to provide meaningful learning experiences and to provide feedback to

students. Our focus will remain squarely on learning and preparing students to be successful at the next level.

It is now more important than ever that our students reach out to get support from their teachers and counselors.

We will persevere through these unprecedented times and we will continue to find ways to support and be there for our NHS family. We will do all these things together. #NHSbettertogether

Sincerely,

Leslie Roach, Ed.D.

Principal