



March 10, 2021

Dear CTECS families and students,

I'm writing to share an update to CTECS' grading policy that will take effect immediately and through the end of the school year. These changes were made with the well-being of our students as a priority.

In speaking with students, it's abundantly clear that they are feeling stressed – stressed from the realities of a pandemic; spending an inordinate amount of time in front of a computer screen; navigating an online learning platform; and juggling school work while simultaneously attending to responsibilities outside of school, which for many have increased quite a bit this year.

Our graded assignments are designed to support students in gaining the most important skills and knowledge they need to be successful. To be responsive to the variety of challenges our students are facing during COVID-19, we have made some adjustments to our grading policy, which are outlined below.

*For the remainder of this school year only*, the following grading practices will take effect:

**Homework:** We are removing the 10% homework grade category in PowerSchool. However, classwork assignments may be required to be completed if not finished during class. These will be graded as classwork.

**Lowest grade of 50 for all assignments:** The lowest grade for any assignment is a 50. This is a failing grade, but will ensure that students don't fall so far behind that they can't pass their courses. If assignments are missing, an "M" for missing work will be entered into PowerSchool so we can accurately track student performance. If you are interested in learning more about why we chose a grade of 50, you can read [the Case Against the Zero](#).

**Lesson Structure:** Students will spend the first half of class engaged with their teacher and receiving instruction. Then, the teacher will spend the second half of class providing extra help, one-on-one conferencing, extension activities or giving time for some students to make-up classwork.

**Makeup time for classwork:** Students who have incomplete classwork will complete it during the second half of class. Classwork must be completed to earn a passing course grade.

**Late penalties:** For the remainder of this year, there will not be any grade penalty for late classwork assignments. Students are expected to submit all assignments 5 days prior to the end of the quarter. However, it is in the student's best interest to stay caught up with all assignments and avoid an overwhelming amount of owed classwork assignments as the semester comes to a close.



Jeff Wihbey, Superintendent of Schools