

Bark River - Harris Schools

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Bark River-Harris Grading Guidelines

4/23/20

This is an unprecedented time and there is not a reliable path to follow. The State has developed guidelines for schools, but has left some decisions to be determined by local school districts. Our current situation can quickly cause stress and become overwhelming for students, parents and teachers. With that in mind, it has been decided Bark River-Harris High School and Junior High will focus on courses needed for graduation requirements, instead of attempting to force students and teachers to incorporate an entire class load. Our plan is embedded in best practices established by MDE. The State has recommended a maximum of 3 hours per day of instructional time for high school and junior high students and therefore our plan is consistent with this practice. The following grading guidelines will be followed by teachers, students and parents.

1. All junior high and high school students are expected to participate in school academic activities through either the on-line educational platform or educational packets sent home. It is the expectation of Bark River-Harris Schools and the State of Michigan for students to participate to the best of their ability and to finish the school year. Students will not be academically punished for lack of participation, but can greatly improve their academic standing by participating.
2. The 3rd marking period report cards are in the process of being sent home with students' locker belongings the week of April 21st via bus routes. School educational packets will also be sent home at this time for families that don't have internet access.
3. 3rd marking period grades will also count as the 2nd semester grades.
4. Semester grades will be included in the cumulative grade point average for high school students.
5. Students **will have an opportunity to improve their current 3rd marking grades** during the remote learning instruction. Grades will be based on the following categories: **participation, effort** and **work completion**. Teachers will determine final 3rd marking period grade increases based on the categories listed above (item #5).
6. Teachers will keep attendance records for face to face instruction and also keep track of class assignments on Google Classroom. Parents with students not participating will be contacted by teachers. Teachers have office hours scheduled on weekday afternoons. The truancy officer is also available to support parents with students unwilling to participate in education.
7. Teachers will keep a record of assignments and grades through PowerSchool, Google Classroom, or both.
8. At the end of the school year, students' adjusted 3rd marking period, 4th marking period (same grade as 3rd marking period) and 2nd semester grades will be distributed to students.

Seniors:

1. Seniors are expected to participate in the final month of school, including dual enrollment and Career Tech classes, with the following exceptions:
 - a. Student completed the 3rd marking period with an “A” grade in a class and the subject area will not be needed for college, trade school or future employment. Must be agreed upon by the instructor of the class, student and parent.
 - b. Student has school administrator permission with agreement from parents/guardian to be exempt from class with a letter grade less than an “A” for work or family obligations.
2. Seniors must pass all required state and school requirements to graduate and receive a diploma from Bark River-Harris Schools this Spring. Please contact the school counselor, Jan Hood, if you have any questions regarding your graduation standing (jhood@brhschools.org).
3. Any recovery credits need to be completed and received by the school as of Friday, May 15 at 3:00 pm.
4. Currently college courses are included in the student’s grade point average for dual enrolled students. Administration is researching the possibility of exempting that policy for the 2020 spring semester. Many dual enrolled students did not sign up for on-line college courses. It may be unfair to include those grades with their high school GPA. Bay College is contemplating the possibility of giving students a choice. The choice would be allowing the student to accept the letter grade for the class or take a pass/fail grade instead.

Below is a portion of the COVID-19 guide for Bark River-Harris Schools that was accepted by the State of Michigan. The complete document can be found on the school website (brhschools.org) under COVID-19 tab.

Bark River-Harris Junior High/High School Continuity of Learning and COVID-19 Response Plan

MIASA Compliance Codes/Executive Order Element: 1,2,3,4,12

Non-negotiables that participants of this CLP must ensure:

1. Understand that the landscape of education has changed. Be willing to make mistakes and keep a record of your efforts for improvement. BRH is committed to fostering maximum student engagement.
2. Understand the COVID 19 virus. Access the following link <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html> for best practices associated with this Pandemic.
3. Must be able to use Google Classrooms as the primary source of curriculum delivery and will respond to emails in a timely and contractual manner.
4. Must be able to perform basic computer skills such as embed hyperlinks, set up Google Meet meetings, PowerSchool announcement software, etc.
5. Utilize a lead teacher as a resource at building and ISD levels.

6. Staff will evaluate all work collected and record as 4th quarter grades in PowerSchool. These learning opportunities will count as pass or fail grades and are based on effort and attendance. Staff will define their own method of grading with the following considerations in place:
 - a. Set realistic goals with an emphasis on support.
 - b. Feedback on learning supersedes the importance of traditional grades.
 - c. Teachers will record feedback once a week in Powerschool for online learning.
 - d. Staff will be available themselves to their students for emotional and academic support through Google Classroom, Google Meet, email, Google Voice, Google duo or by phone calls. A schedule of contact has been established and is posted as part of this document. Students not available through a virtual connection will be contacted by phone.
 - e. Packet Learning grade feedback will be delayed but academic/emotional support will be maintained.
 - f. Maintain communications with Special Education Teachers. Document your efforts to accommodate the variety of learning needs.
 - g. How will we rate our efforts? What defines our success