# Provisional Grading Policy in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic for S2 Grades

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS?

**Q: Will Honors and AP courses still be weighted?**
A: Yes. This interim shift to a modified pass/fail system will continue to incorporate a weighted option, so that we take into account a course's rigor, such as with honors and Advanced Placement (AP).

**Q: Will Class Rank still be calculated for the Class of 2020?**
A: Yes. Year 1 Grades will be factored into the calculation to compute cumulative GPAs, which will be used to determine class rank for the senior members of the Class of 2020.

**Q: Will this temporary grading policy carry into the 2020-21 School Year?**
A: No. Kingsway has adopted a new grading policy, which will begin with the start of the 2020-21 School year. To learn more about those changes, click HERE.

**Q: Why not just use Pass/Fail without adding numerical values?**
A: We considered this but recognize that high school students need numerical values to calculate cumulative GPAs. Eliminating numerical values, especially for students who achieve high grades, will be detrimental to them in the long run. More detailed information on this can be found in the narrative within this document.

**Q: Why are some students, who would ordinarily earn lower grades, be awarded a numerical value of a 92?**
A: We have countless stories of students who may have started any given school year slowly, with lower grades, to only achieve high grades during the second semester. However, our present environment does not provide that same opportunity. Rather than ignore the varying circumstances, and unrelenting factors that may hinder student academic success, we prefer to hold these students harmless in the present environment. Moreover, the Provisional Pass/Fail Grading Policy applies only to S2 grades and Y1 grades will be computed by averaging S1 and S2 grades. As an example, suppose a student earned a 76 in S1 grade and a 92 in S2. When we average S1 and S2 the student would then earn an 84 for his/her Y1 grade.

**Q: What other measures have you applied to help ensure fair and equitable student grading occurs.**
A: Since the abrupt transition to our present virtual learning program, school officials have been focused on implementing measures to help ensure that our students are not unfairly penalized for the unprecedented circumstances in which we operate. Those measures include the following:
- We suspended the use of primary assessments and common summative assessments (CSAs), which accounted for 50 percent of a student's grade. We did this knowing we could not conduct assessments in our virtual environment with any degree of confidence. Instead, we have continued the use of supportive and secondary assessments as a means of measuring student performance while encouraging academic growth.
- We have continued our reassessment practice for secondary assessments in an effort to focus on the learning process by providing students with every opportunity to reflect on teacher feedback and take assessments a second time.

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- We exempted missing assignments for students who faced make-up work while we were in our traditional system (Feb. 3rd to Mar. 13th.). PowerSchool grades should be reflected as an "Ex" for these assignments, which will not count against a student's S2 grade. We did this in an effort to alleviate the burden placed on students who are navigating our virtual environment while resolving, in some cases, considerable amount of make-up work. We do not believe, in these circumstances, the "burying" a student with "make-up" work would be in the best interest of any student's academic performance and/or well-being.
- We extended the period for students to make-up missing assignments, which were assigned after we transitioned to our virtual learning program, to Monday, April 20th. Students who completed all missing work were given full credit.
- We are presently investigating options to re-calibrate our grading categories for S2 and testing to ensure that this measure benefits our students.