



**CURRICULUM AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
LYONS TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 204**

**Virtual Meeting
100 South Brainard Avenue
La Grange, Illinois 60525
Thursday, December 10, 2020 - 7:00 AM**

AGENDA

I. Curriculum Committee	
A. Updated Second Semester 2020-21 School Calendar	2
B. First Quarter Semester Grades and Student Supports	4
II. Technology Committee	
A. Whole School 1 to 1 Rollout Costs	
B. Technology Infrastructure Updates	6

BY ORDER OF
MRS. MOLLY MURPHY BRUTON AND
MRS. JESSICA McLEAN, CHAIRPERSONS
LYONS TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 204
100 SOUTH BRAINARD AVENUE
LA GRANGE, IL 60525

LYONS TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL



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SCOTT D. EGGERDING
Director of Curriculum and Instruction

TO: Tim Kilrea
Board of Education

FROM: Scott D. Eggerding

DATE: December 8, 2020

RE: 2020-2021 Calendar Update

BACKGROUND:

The Board will recall a number of changes to the Calendar upon adopting remote and hybrid models of instruction. We began the year with three additional days of professional development to be prepared for welcoming students into virtual classrooms with new technology tools. Later, we adjusted the calendar to accommodate the state-mandated election day holiday and create a 5-day weekend that coincided with parent teacher conferences.

As a part of the guidance for the creation of school calendars, The Illinois State Board of Education determined that schools could use up to 5 days of professional development focused on online remote and hybrid learning as student attendance days. Since we did not know what the school year would bring, we did not formally count those extra Institute Days as Remote learning Planning Days. Doing so now allows us to include an April Institute Day and to finish the school year prior to Memorial Day Weekend, as was originally planned prior to COVID. As we turn our attention to second semester, we recommend making the following changes:

Change:

Remote Learning Days (Designation)	August 17, 18 and 19
April Institute Day (Add)	April 23
Last Day of School-Students	May 27

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the 2020-2021 Updated Second Semester 2020-2021 School Calendar as presented.



LYONS TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 204

Updated Second Semester 2020-2021 SCHOOL CALENDAR

Updated 12-4-20

August 2020

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

September 2020

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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
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27	28	29	30			

October 2020

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November 2020

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December 2020

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January 2021

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31						

OPENING/CLOSING DAYS OF SCHOOL

- August 20 (A) First Day of School
- May 27 (Ω) Last Day of School

STUDENT NON-ATTENDANCE DAYS (✳)

- August 13 District Institute Day
- August 14 Teacher Work Day
- August 15-17 Remote Learning Planning Days
- September 7 Labor Day
- October 9 District Institute Day
- October 12 Non-Attendance Day
- October 14 SAT for Seniors, Juniors no school
- October 30 Non-Attendance Day
- November 2 Non-Attendance Day
- November 3 Non-Attendance Day
- November 25 Non-Attendance Day
- November 26-27 Thanksgiving Holiday
- Dec. 21 – Jan. 1 Winter Break
- January 4 District Institute Day
- January 18 Dr. M.L. King, Jr. Day
- February 15 Presidents Day
- March 22-26 Spring Break
- April 2 Non-attendance Day
- April 13 SAT for Juniors, Seniors no school
- April 23 Institute Day
- May 31 Memorial Day

GRADING PERIODS

- October 8 Q1 1st quarter
- December 18 S1 2nd quarter & End of 1st semester
- March 5 Q3 3rd quarter
- May 27 Ω 4th quarter & End of 2nd semester

COMMENCEMENT (☞)

- May 30 2:00 p.m. NC Fieldhouse

MISCELLANEOUS

- August 4-7, 10-12 ☞ Book Pick-up Days (By Appointment Only)
- June 7 Summer School Begins

February 2021

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28						

March 2021

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April 2021

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May 2021

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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

June 2021

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20	21	22	23	24	25	26
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July 2021

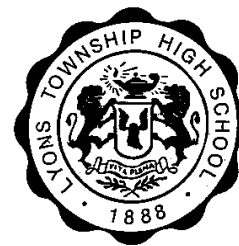
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

☉ Emergency Days may be used as school days if school closes unexpectedly during the regular school year.

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SCOTT D. EGGERDING
Director of Curriculum and Instruction

TO: Tim Kilrea
Board of Education Curriculum Committee

FROM: Scott Eggerding

DATE: December 10, 2020

RE: First Quarter Semester Grades and Student Supports

Since the Curriculum Committee met in November, a committee comprised of teachers, counselors, and administrators met to better understand the data of our in-progress failures at LT, as well as to accurately situate that problem within the context of the continuing pandemic. Unfortunately, LT is not unique in this situation as schools across the country are finding themselves with an increased number of students struggling to engage or maintain their previous level of academic achievement.

As was discussed at the Committee in November, a great deal of communication and contact has occurred all semester with students who have struggled with learning during the pandemic. These efforts have included, but are not limited to, phone calls, emails, Zoom meetings, home visits, door-to-door tech drop offs, expansion of re-entry supports, rolling admissions to our Alternative Program, connections with community supports, transportation, and significant flexibility from staff in regards to the ways in which students can get support and demonstrate their learning. Despite our best efforts, some students still do not turn in work, log in to class, or respond to attempts to connect.

The committee considered short-term solutions focused on ways to provide hope to students and relieve the stress and anxiety of this semester by reducing the penalty that grades can inflict on transcripts and GPAs. Long-term solutions focused on ways we ensure students do not miss out on critical skills and provide supports for those who struggle to engage during the pandemic.

First Semester Grades

Conditions for learning during first semester have been challenging for many students. Nearly 400 students have missed more than 10% of their classes and we are projecting an increase in the number of failures compared to previous years. The committee discussed many options to make sure students were given opportunities to demonstrate learning while also acknowledging unique pandemic conditions. As a result, teachers will be given the following options for semester grades:

I = Incomplete

This grade will be used for a student that is missing a few things that could be made up within the first six weeks of the second semester. The result will be a letter grade unless they do not complete the missing work.

W = Withdrawal

All F's will be converted to W's. Similar to an F, a W indicates that the student did not complete the course and did not earn credit; however, a W is not factored in to a student's GPA. Unlike a P for Pass, which was required by the State in the spring, a student will need to make up the course if it is a graduation requirement. A W is used when there is little chance that enough work will be turned in to earn an A-D grade. In previous use, a W required a student to drop the second course in a sequence. This caveat will not be enforced automatically first semester.

Previously, two other grades have been used sparingly for unique circumstances that we are no longer using and which can be accommodated as follows:

CP (Conditional Pass) means a student has failed first semester but will get a passing grade for first semester if they pass second semester. Instead of a CP, a teacher can assign a W if the student is too far behind or assign an I if they have a few things to make up. In this way, the student isn't waiting until May to resolve a first semester grade. The teacher can always go back and change the W to a letter grade if the student demonstrates additional learning.

DP (Doubtful Pass) means a student hasn't really learned enough to move on in a sequence. In many cases, a student is assigned a DP and then continues in the sequence at a lower level. This is a confusing grade for colleges. Instead of using a DP, a teacher should initiate a conversation with the student or the counselor to suggest a level down, followed by the assigning of a letter grade, an I, or a W, depending on the circumstance.

Second Semester Supports

Many ideas were discussed for second semester supports and most are based on whether school is in person or remote. The committee will continue to discuss the options and bring forward recommendations in January. Among those ideas being discussed, but by no means entirely planned or finalized and in no particular order, are the following:

- Expand re-entry for students who need an adult to help them navigate collecting and turning in assignments-especially students with an Incomplete.
- Implement a check-in/check-out system for chronically disadvantaged students.
- Re-open test make-up centers during VP time and lunch periods.
- Have students who fail/withdraw from a course enroll in Edgenuity or another online course platform ASAP during an open period or VP time with someone to monitor their work.
- Consider online tutoring for students who fell behind first semester so that they are starting fresh with additional supports second semester.
- Consider different models based on urgency (i.e. seniors, 504, IEP, low attendance)
- Encourage full-year courses to spend the first two weeks on review for those who got behind and enrichment for those who are on target.
- Survey other Districts to see what they are doing or trying.

We believe that with these changes in the short term and the ideas we consider for second semester that we will be able to provide students additional opportunity to demonstrate learning despite the pandemic and without significantly harming their GPA.

RECOMMENDATION:


No action required. This item is informational. 5

Vita Plena

LYONS TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL

EDWARD C. TENNANT
Director of Technology

DISTRICT OFFICE
NORTH CAMPUS
100 S. Brainard Ave.
LaGrange, IL 60525
SOUTH CAMPUS
4900 S. Willow Springs Rd.
Western Springs, IL 60558
(708) 579-6300

TO: Dr. Tim Kilrea
Board of Education
FROM: Ed Tennant 
DATE: December 7, 2020
RE: Technology Updates

INFORMATION:

Fiber Optic Cabling

The project to install a state-of-the-art fiber optic backbone is well underway, updating the existing fiber paths that were installed twenty or more years ago. Materials were delivered to both campuses the day before Thanksgiving and already more than a mile of cabling has been pulled through the tunnels, vertical chases, ceiling paths and conduits of South Campus. Multiple check-ins daily are addressing questions and concerns, as well as slight alterations of the plans required to respond to the return to hybrid learning from the adaptive pause and full remote operations of students. Once finished stringing the cables at South Campus, the installation crew will move to the tasks of terminating the cables in each of the network wiring closets and at the main distribution frame / data center. The crew will then turn their attentions to North Campus, followed by a number of previously-unserved buildings (SC Bennett Field Concession and Press Box – NC Maintenance Building).

From the financial perspective, it was originally expected that the project would cost roughly \$210,000 per campus, or a total of approximately \$420,000. As specified now with the contractors, the entire project – upgrading the existing facilities and bringing service to previously-unserved locations – will total less than \$220,000.

Internet Services

Presently, the district is served via two connections to the Internet. The primary connection used by students and staff to access Internet-hosted resources is presently a 1 Gbps connection shared among the participants of the Western Springs Municipal consortium (The Village of Western Springs including Police and Fire Departments, Lyons Township High School District 204, Western Springs Elementary School District 101, St. John of the Cross School and the Thomas Ford Public Library). The second connection, used to provide access to LT-hosted resources, presently traverses a 100 Mbps link to the Illinois Century Network (ICN). Neither are currently capable of supporting the district's needs without the other and both are undersized to meet the future needs of the district and consortium.

Recommendations of the state department of information technology and the state's learning technology centers indicate schools should strive to be at 3-4 Gbps connections per 1,000 students if not more, especially when operating under a 1:1 computing model, and be prepared to grow further within the next three years. By this calculation, LT will require a minimum of 6-8 Gbps to each campus to properly support its move to 1:1. Through efforts with the Western Springs Municipal Consortium, its Internet Service Provider Cogent, and the team at ICN, a plan is nearing completion that will provide dedicated 10 Gbps circuits from ICN to each of LT's campuses and the upgrade and rerouting of the consortium's circuit to an additional 10 Gbps link via Cogent landing at LT and shared to the consortium locations. This solution provides appropriate bandwidth to LT and the consortium members, while introducing the best practices of vendor and circuit-path diversity.

Changes to the ICN program allow them to now offer their services to school districts like LT for the cost of the transport – the circuits between our locations and theirs – which are currently provided by AT&T. Quotes for the upgraded links indicate they'll each cost roughly the same as the existing link to ICN. Relocation of the consortium link to LT will make that connection E-rate eligible and that discount is expected to reduce the cost to near the cost the consortium is paying for its current service despite the ten-fold bandwidth increase. An amendment to the intergovernmental agreement managing these elements between the school district and the

village is being drafted for consideration by the Boards of each organization. A recommendation for acceptance of the amendment will be presented once the draft is completed and counsel has reviewed the document.

RECOMMENDATION:

Presented as information. No action is recommended.