



4/9/2020

Dear Rainier High School Students and Families,

Rainier High School staff has been working collaboratively to develop a plan for the remainder of our school year. With the abrupt closure of school before spring break, we realized that there was a possibility that we may not be returning for the school year. We began our preparation for a long term closure of school. Our goal was to provide a continuation and continuity of learning for each of our students. We started with surveys to see how we could meet our families' needs with "Distance Learning." Discussions surrounding "Tech Packs" vs. Paper Packets were held, with a decision to use both models of learning to support the needs of our local families and students.

On Monday, we introduced the "Distance Learning" model, following the direction of the Oregon Department of Education and Governor Kate Brown. We recognize there will be bumps in the road as we try a new and unfamiliar form of educating your students. This has been a learning experience this week for all of us. We appreciate your patience, flexibility and partnership as we work together to meet the new challenge. Hang in there with us as we navigate the new norm! Remember that challenges create opportunity and with opportunity comes growth. This experience will push us to grow as educators, as learners, and as community members.

Wednesday afternoon, the Oregon Department of Education and Governor Brown announced that school buildings will remain closed for the remainder of the 2019-20 school year. They released the following statewide guidance for **our graduating seniors, Class of 2020**. Here are the important points affecting our seniors only:

- All seniors are expected to complete 24 credits to graduate using the Oregon Diploma subject requirements. This is a reduction of one credit from our normal 25 credits at Rainier (See attached course requirements).

Summary of 2020 Oregon Diploma Requirements

Subject Area	2020 Regular Diploma Requirement	2020 Modified Diploma Requirement*	2020 Extended Diploma Requirement
English Language Arts	4.0 credits	3.0 credits	2.0 credits
Mathematics	3.0 credits	2.0 credits	2.0 credits
Science	3.0 credits	2.0 credits	2.0 credits
Social Sciences	3.0 credits	2.0 credits	3.0 credits
Second Language/ The Arts/CTE	3.0 credits	1.0 credits	1.0 credits
Health	1.0 credits	1.0 credits	1.0 credits
Physical Education	1.0 credits	1.0 credits	1.0 credits
Electives	6.0 credits	12.0 credits	0 credits
Essential Skills and Personalized Learning Requirements	Suspended	Suspended	Not Required
Total	24.0 credits	24.0 credits	12.0 credits

* Credit for a modified diploma shall be granted through a continuum of instruction beginning at basic skills and progressing through high level skills, according to individual student needs across academic content areas. Courses granting credit towards a modified diploma must contain substantial academic content.

- All grades for semester 2 will now be Pass/Incomplete and will not be calculated into the final GPA.
- If seniors are passing their classes (A,B,C or D) on March 13, they will receive a Pass (P) for the semester. The remainder of our school closure, for seniors, will be focused on providing support for post-secondary opportunities, such as assistance with the FAFSA application for financial aid, college/internship applications, scholarship applications, and other supports as needed.
- If seniors had an F on March 13, their teachers will connect with them to determine an individualized plan to grade/enter/complete missing assignments or work on content that was taught prior to March 13 until students meet proficiency on those topics. Once they pass, they will receive the post-secondary opportunity support.
- Semester two senior credits will be entered on Friday and transcripts will be revised and reviewed on Monday. We will be reaching out to families individually as soon as these processes are complete.
- All Essential Skills, Statewide testing, and Personalized Learning Requirements (i.e. Career-Related Learning Experiences, Resume, Plan and Profile) are suspended.

At this time, **we are waiting for guidance on 9th-11th grade as well as Dual Credit courses.** We expect that this information will come to us next week. As soon as it is available, it will be shared with our school community.

We recognize that these changes create questions; we are here to add clarity for individual situations. Our staff will continue to reach out to families so you can stay informed and we can receive feedback to ensure we are meeting your needs.

Senior Activities

Due to the extended school closure through the rest of the school year and guidance from ODE, we are looking at options for our senior celebration activities, such as prom and graduation. Administration is working to honor our students and celebrate their achievements. We are looking at ways to ensure that all seniors and families have the opportunity to participate in these events. More information will be shared as we settle on the best alternative.

We will honor our seniors weekly by turning on our stadium lights every Friday night at 20:20 military time (8:20pm) for 30 minutes until June 15th.

We are #Columbian Strong!!!

Please follow the guidelines of staying healthy-save lives mandate. We miss not being able to see you in the hallways and activities. We look forward to seeing you all again soon!

Stay safe,

Graden Blue, Principal

Kim Oblack, Vice Principal

RJSHS Teachers and Staff

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the key components of the graduation guidance?

The guidance maintains Oregon's rigorous credit requirements while providing a clear path to graduation for seniors who were on-track to graduate prior to the statewide school closure. It ensures that schools focus their resources to first support students who need to complete additional credits to graduate and then prepare all graduates for their next steps in life.

Is this still a real Oregon Diploma?

Our students have successfully completed 12 years and 7 months of school. The last 2 months of school represents less than 2% of students' K-12 learning time. Our job is to make sure young people's future is not impacted during this pandemic. We're honoring the 12 years and seven months that students have put into this moment. Even with these minor modifications, Oregon's diploma remains one of the most rigorous in the nation.

How does Oregon's decision compare to other states?

Oregon's approach mirrors other states. Arizona does not penalize graduating seniors solely on the effects of COVID-19 school closures. In Arkansas, seniors who are on track to graduate and in good standing as of the 3rd nine weeks reporting period will be considered "as meeting the graduation requirements." In North Carolina, students will receive a Pass or Withdrawal based on their learning as of March 13 for spring courses. If the student has an F as of March 13 for graduation requirements, districts/schools shall provide remote learning opportunities for the student to improve to a passing grade. In Ohio students who were on track to graduate at the time of the ordered school-building closure will be permitted to graduate on time in the Spring of 2020.

Who was involved in the decision-making about graduation requirements?

The Oregon Department of Education partnered with educators, administrators, culturally specific community-based organizations, and the education community over the past few weeks. Our seniors deserve the very best pathway to their future and we're thankful that the Oregon Department

of Education was thoughtful and planned for the possibility of this extended disruption.

What will they announce next?

The Oregon Department of Education will be releasing guidance on equitably providing evaluative feedback and credit to students in 9th - 11th grades who are also earning credit toward a future diploma. They will continue to develop social-emotional and mental health supports. They will release new guidance on emergency child care this week as well. Our district will continue to track and localize these resources for our community and families.

How will this impact students' preparedness and ability to get into their college of choice?

The class of 2020 is resilient and ready to take on the rigors of college. The new 2020 Oregon Diploma requirements include all 24 credits and remain more rigorous than many other states. Oregon has one of the most rigorous diplomas in the country. Seniors were on-track to graduate and missing less than 2% of their K-12 career will not impact their readiness for college in significant or lasting ways.

Students apply to 4-year colleges in the fall and winter of their senior year. They are accepted in the spring. The colleges will expect them to complete their diplomas and that is exactly what we are allowing them to do. The Oregon public universities are committed to ensuring that new students who intend to enroll at our institutions are considered fairly in light of the educational interruption they have endured. No student admitted to our institutions for fall 2020 will have their admission rescinded due to changes in grading policy or the inability to complete their coursework, so long as they still graduate.

Students who apply to our institutions are still subject to a review process that focuses on one's ability to succeed in college, but it now recognizes that some situations are beyond their control. We look forward to supporting students and high schools through this challenging time, both now and with future graduating classes impacted by the pandemic.