



3447 East Carson St. • Pittsburgh, PA 15203
Phone: 412-325-7305 • Fax: 412-325-7309
www.propelschools.org

April 2020

Dear Propel Seniors and Families,

We understand that the spring of senior year is a time of both great excitement and anxiety for many scholars, even absent a pandemic. Given the impact of Covid-19, we know that many of you have important questions about many topics, ranging from graduation to prom to Senior Expedition. This letter is to provide important information and updates regarding these topics and more.

Please know that we are working hard at doing what is best for each of you. We are committed to ensuring that no student is restricted from completing their high school graduation requirements or pursuing their post-secondary path due to the pandemic. We will provide all reasonable latitude to ensure you graduate on time.

Please see the questions and answers below. These FAQs are for grade 12 only. Information for grades 9-11 and K-8 will be sent separately.

Will I have an opportunity to graduate in June?

We are committed to ensuring that all students who were on track for graduation are able to graduate in June. We are also committed to supporting seniors who were not on track with every opportunity to get back on track for graduation.

What are the graduation requirements?

While many of the courses that are needed for a Propel diploma are still required, there are a few amendments to graduation given our current limitations. While Senior Seminar will continue, it is no longer a graduation requirement (more information below). We are also waving community service hours as a requirement for graduation. Still, we hope you can find some way to help your local community during this challenging time, if you are able.

How will final course grades be determined?

Each scholar may choose between different final course grading options for each course. Scholars will select one of two options:

1. Final earned course grade. Once Planned Instruction begins, the same gradebook and grading scales that were used prior to March 13 will resume. Under this option, the scholar may choose to keep the final course grade. Doing so would mean that the final course grade is included in Grade Point Average (GPA).
OR
2. Pass/Incomplete. Based on what the scholar's grade is at the end of the year, he/she can elect to have the course become a "Pass/Incomplete" course. Under this option, the scholar's final grade (Pass or Incomplete) would not be included in GPA.
 - a. *For Skyward Schools:* An average of the 2 semesters that are 70% or higher will earn a "Pass" and grades below 70% will earn an "Incomplete."
 - b. *For Jump Rope Schools:* A final course grade of a 2 or higher will earn a "Pass" and grades below a 2 will earn an "Incomplete."

More information on how and when this decision should be made will follow later this month. If a scholar does not make a selection between these choices at the given time, all grades that are a 80%/3 or higher will fall under option 1 above. All grades that are 79%/2.9 or lower will fall under option 2 above.

Any scholar who receives either a failing grade on the previous grading scale or receives a "Incomplete" on the pass/incomplete grading scale may need to recover that credit via credit recovery over the summer. We will provide support for students in grade 12 who are failing a course as of March 13, 2020 and provide them every opportunity, to the full extent feasible, to demonstrate learning in the subject matter of the course in order to receive credit.

What are Senior Seminar expectations?

Many scholars have already completed an impressive amount of work on their Senior Expedition Project. While this course is no longer a graduation requirement, we encourage students to continue on with their topics. Senior Seminar exists to help prepare students to be ready for college and career, to become critical thinkers, to positively impact our local communities, and to become an engaged citizen. For these reasons, we encourage all students to carry on with their Senior Expedition topic via their Google Classrooms. All students will receive a "Pass" for this course. A scholar may choose to complete the assignments and keep their earned grade. If the scholar decides to complete their Senior Expedition, the scholar will receive special recognition at graduation.

When will our graduation ceremony take place?

Our planned High School Graduation Ceremony is being postponed. We currently plan on setting up a date in late July to hold graduation. This largely depends on social distancing



3447 East Carson St. • Pittsburgh, PA 15203
Phone: 412-325-7305 • Fax: 412-325-7309
www.propelschools.org

guidelines, however. Nonetheless, we are committed, as are all of you, to seeing the Class of 2020 walk across the stage. Our intention is to have the ceremony at some point and will give you and your family as much advance notice as possible.

Will we still have Prom?

Prom is also currently postponed. We are investigating a creative way to provide senior year rites of passage. We will look to reschedule Prom later in the summer, if that's a possibility. It is our intention to provide our seniors with as many opportunities as possible that marks this life accomplishment and recognize them for the good work that they have done.

What should I do if I have questions about my post-secondary steps (college, career, etc), including transcripts and financial aid?

Each of our College and Career Counselors have been attempting to reach every Senior. We will continue to check-in with each of you to make sure we address questions you have and advocate with other institutions on your behalf. We remain here for you. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to reach out. Contact information can be found on the "Counselor's Corner" page-
<https://sites.google.com/propelschools.org/athomebackpack/home>

We all want the very best for our Seniors. We understand that this is a challenging time. Please reach out to us with any questions or concerns. We want nothing more than to help our Seniors be successful with their next steps.

Sincerely,

Tina Chekan
Superintendent/CEO Propel Schools