

## **Updates for Seniors**

### **Parents and Graduating Seniors of St. Martin Parish:**

We hope everyone is doing well during these unprecedented times.

Our parish has received updated information from the Louisiana Department of Education regarding Senior Graduation. The underlying and reassuring message from the state is clear: Students who were on track to graduate this May will graduate. They will not be held back due to the loss of instructional minutes, the loss of the opportunity to take End-of-Course (EOC) assessments, or the loss of earning a credential. The only reason a student would not graduate is because the student did not pass the necessary courses to graduate.

We have compiled a list of **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)** to address specific student and parent questions regarding Graduating Seniors. The state will provide guidance for non-graduating students soon; as soon as we receive this information, we will share it with you. Remember: The following information from the state applies to GRADUATING SENIORS only.

If after reading through this information you still have questions, please email your school's principal or Daniel LeBoeuf, the District Secondary Supervisor, at [daniel\\_leboeuf@saintmartinschools.org](mailto:daniel_leboeuf@saintmartinschools.org).

**Q: I was a student who had to pass either the Biology or U.S. History End-of-Course assessment (EOC) to graduate. I failed both of them last December and was preparing to try again in May. Will I still have to pass at least one to graduate?**

No. For a 2019-2020 Graduating Senior, you are waived from standardized state testing requirements (EOC). The state is clear: Graduating Seniors cannot be denied graduation because of state test requirements for the 2019-2020 year.

**Q: I am a Graduating Senior who was in a spring Nursing (or Electricity, Welding or Cosmetology) course and I needed to pass the course and the credentials to graduate. Can I still graduate?**

First of all, you must pass the course itself. If you were not passing the course by March 13<sup>th</sup>, you will have to make up work in April and May. High schools are currently reviewing all senior rosters; any student who is in danger of failing will be contacted and provided the opportunity to make up their work and demonstrate proficiency in the course.

If you were passing the course by March 13<sup>th</sup>, you will graduate. Even if you didn't take the credential test by March 13<sup>th</sup> or had failed the first try, you will still graduate as long as you have passed the course itself. Credentials have been waived for graduating seniors this year.

**Q: Given testing and credential requirements have been waived for 2019-2020 Graduating Seniors, what could prevent me from graduating this year?**

Failing to pass the required number of courses required to meet graduation requirements. If by March 13<sup>th</sup> you were failing a course you needed in order to graduate, you have not met the requirements to graduate. High schools are currently checking senior rosters to determine who is currently not eligible for graduation for this reason. You will be contacted and the high school will provide the opportunity for the senior to make up work and demonstrate proficiency. This will vary from student to student. You should hear from your high school starting April 20<sup>th</sup> if you require an opportunity to pass a course you are currently failing.

**Q: What about a graduation ceremony?**

Superintendent Blanchard has made it clear that the graduation ceremonies will likely be delayed but will certainly take place. Graduation is a milestone and our district wants to provide the opportunity for parents and friends to share in honoring our graduates who have worked 12 years to walk across the stage to receive their diploma.

**Q: What about prom?**

Like the graduation ceremony, Superintendent Blanchard as well as our three high school principals understand this is an important milestone of the senior year. The event is postponed but not cancelled. High schools will reach out to everyone when quarantine policies are lifted and it is safe for students to gather in large numbers.

**Q: I was up for valedictorian. Has anything changed so that now I am not?**

Each high school will determine valedictorians and salutatorians as they have always done in the past, based on honors courses and grades. For the spring semester, letter grades for courses will be determined by using the letter grade from the 1<sup>st</sup> Nine Week report.