

Good Afternoon Neshaminy Secondary Students and Parents,

Neshaminy Secondary Grades 5-12 Education, Phase 3 Update, April 7

Please find below the next update on Phase 3 of Neshaminy's Continuation of Learning during the COVID-19 School Closures.

A complete list of all Neshaminy COVID-19 communications may be found at <https://www.neshaminy.org/>

Things to Know about Phase 3 of Neshaminy's Continuation of Learning Plan beginning Monday, April 13

1. **A Quick Review** (Details on each bullet may be found in previous emails at www.neshaminy.org)
 - Phase 3 begins on Monday, April 13.
 - The plan is an Asynchronous Online Model. More on "Asynchronous" below.
 - The Activities for the entire week for each class/course will open on each Monday at 6 AM.
 - Each class/course will have approximately 30 minutes of work for students to do including a task to Check for Understanding and participation for the day. We will monitor and adjust accordingly.
 - Grades for Marking Period 4 Online are either (S)atisfactory or (I)ncomplete
2. **Determining an End-of-year Grade in each class/course**
 - a) Some Important Background/Foundational Understandings about End-of-course Grades and Transcripts to set the stage:
 - A student's official Transcript begins in Grade 9.
 - Middle Schoolers have a Transcript-like End-of-course Grade History in our computer system.
 - At the High School Level, End-of-course Grades are determined by a standardized cumulative point-system involving five equally weighted grades; grades from each marking period with the fifth equally weighted grade being the Course Final Exam.
 - At the Middle Level, End-of-course grades are determined by a point-system involving each of the four marking periods with the Final Exam as part of the fourth marking period grade.
 - Only End-of-course Grades appear on Transcripts.
 - So individual Marking Period Grades "disappear" into the background once an End-of-course Grade is determined.

2. Determining an End-of-year Grade in each class/course (Continued)

b) Final Exams will be eliminated this year.

c) Calculating the End-of-course Grades

End-of-course Grades will continue to be A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, C-, D+, D, D- or F as in the past. The calculation will be determined by an adjusted standardized point-system similar to the well-established present point-system using the grades from the first 3 marking periods plus a (S)atisfactory in marking period 4. The (S)atisfactory being used to push the End-of-course Grade upward.

If the student receives an (I)ncomplete for Marking Period 4, an (I)ncomplete will also be assigned to the End-of-course Grade until the student has had an opportunity and access to complete the work.

The below chart illustrates the idea.

NHS	MP1	MP2	MP3	MP4	FE	End-of-course Grade
Student 1	A	A	A	S	X	A
Student 2	A	A	A	I	X	I
Student 3	A	B	A	S	X	A
Student 4	A	B	B	S	X	A-
Student 5	B	B	B	S	X	B
Student 6	F	F	D	S	X	D
Student 7	F	F	F	S	X	Call us to discuss
Student 8	F	F	I	I	X	I
Student 9	B	B	C	S	X	B
Student 10	B	B	D	S	X	B-
Etc.,Etc., Etc.						

Once the final grade is determined, the student/parent will be given the Choice of the Actual Grade or a Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory Mark. A Satisfactory along with all passing Grades are Credit Bearing (NHS).

Both Satisfactory and Unsatisfactory Marks, if chosen, would be excluded from GPA.

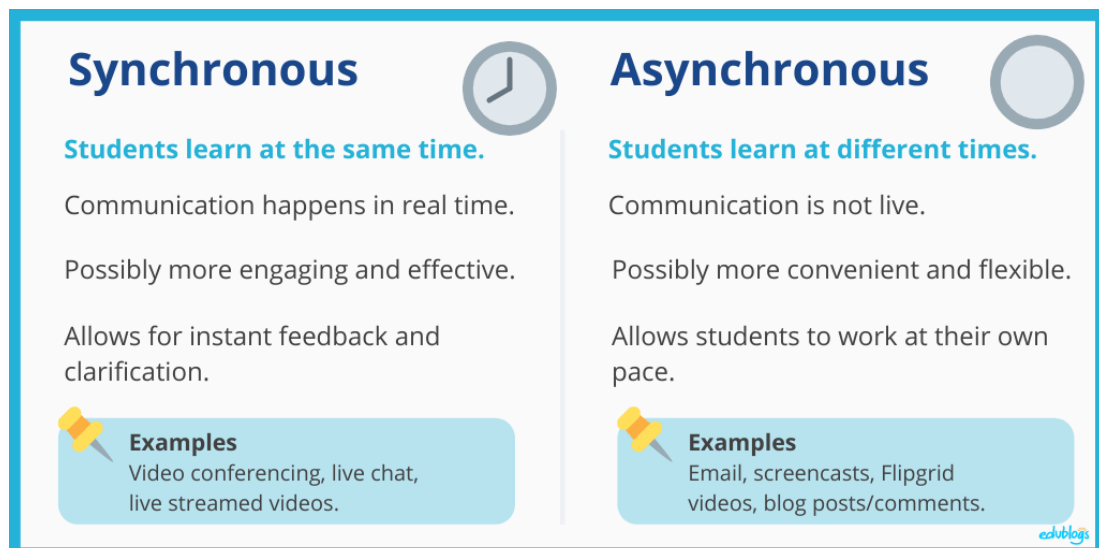
3. Asynchronous Online Instruction with a splash of Synchronicity

I am going to take another shot at explaining Asynchronous Online Instruction/Learning as there is still some confusion out there. I'll start with what we are not doing.

- We are not moving through the normal in-school Bell Schedule from Class to Class Online.
- There is no expectation the students and teachers are all Online at the same time. However, teachers will be communicating with the class and individual students/parents daily.
- There is no expectation that teachers will do Synchronous Online Video Conferences; though some will use Video Conferences periodically to “touch-base” with students in their classes both for instructional support and social/emotional support.
- There is no expectation that teachers will video themselves teaching and post it in Canvas; though some will use videos periodically to demonstrate important facets of the content.

In the asynchronous learning environment, students may complete their work for each class/course at a time of their choosing (or their parents' choosing) during a given day. The same flexibility applies to the teaching staff.

In our view, a Synchronous Online Environment where each child in the family has to “Go Live” with a particular teacher, six times a day while Mom/Dad are working/or working from home is unrealistic and unsustainable for both the family and our teaching staff.



4. The K-12 Big Picture.

On Monday, April 13, we, the Neshaminy Community, will begin the task of continuing our educational system as best we can under a completely new set of conditions. For the past several weeks, I've watched from behind the scenes as principals and teachers have worked together – virtually – to plan and implement a quality Online program that is flexible and sustainable for a significant period of time.

As much as we at the secondary level have scrambled and stepped-up over the past few weeks, Neshaminy Elementary Staff has taken it to a new level. They purchased Canvas for Grades K – 4 only last week. Elementary Teachers trained virtually on the platform and will design lessons this week for a Monday, April 13 opening. At the Secondary level, we have had Canvas for 6ish years at the Middle School and 2-3 years at NHS. Elementary is on a two week from purchase to Online Classes timeline with little, little kids. While the work at the Secondary Level is impressive, I have to “Tip my Hat” to the elementary folks as their “Can Do” attitude reflects their professionalism and commitment to their students.

5. **More things to explain in the coming days** *(Since my wife/proofreader has placed a 4-page limit on my email communications.....)*
- a) How am I supposed to get my kid to do this stuff?
 - b) What if a student has a specialized learning need?
 - c) Monitoring Student Progress

Please do not hesitate to call or email your questions to me.

With Neshaminy Pride!

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PS: The Next Family Fun Activity

Time for some Math Talk!

Level 1: Answer the question →

Level 2: Write an algebraic inequality that precisely answers the question.


More “Fun” Math Stuff at

<https://www.mathsisfun.com/puzzles/measuring-puzzles-index.html>

[Measuring Puzzles](#) [Starter Puzzles](#) [Puzzle Games](#) [Logic Puzzles](#) [Jigsaw Puzzles](#) [Number Puzzles](#) [Card Puzzles](#) [Einstein Puzzles](#) [Sam Loyd Puzzles](#) [Algebra Puzzles](#)

Baffling Bath Water Puzzle

The Puzzle:



The cold faucet in my bath lets the water in at the rate of 15 litres per minute.
The hot faucet fills the bath at the rate of 10 liters per minute.
The plug hole lets the water out of the bath at the rate of 12 liters per minute.
The bath holds a maximum of 520 liters.

I turn both faucets on, but forget to put the plug in. How many minutes does it take for the bath to overflow?