To: MNPS Families and Stakeholders
From: Sito Narcisse, Ed.D., Chief of Schools
Date: January 10, 2019
Re: Policy Changes - Removal of Points for Advanced Academic Courses

This memo is to provide information related to end-of-semester and/or end-of-year grading for courses with external assessments (AP, IB, AICE, and DE or DC). It serves as a follow up to a communication from Dr. David Williams in May 2018 regarding changes to TN Department of Education Uniform Grading Policy 3.301 and the implications for MNPS grading procedures. TN State Board Uniform Grading Policy 3.301 and MNPS Grading Procedures 4.106 require the removal of any honors points associated with these courses if a student does not take the external exam. The policy states:

“….. LEAs may award additional weighting to the grades of students who have completed an AP, Cambridge International, or IB course, or a course aligned with an Industry Certification or CLEP exam, prior to sitting for the culminating exam. If the additional weighting is awarded prior to participation in the culminating exam, the LEA shall have a policy to remove the additional weighting if the student does not participate in the culminating exam by the end of the school year in which the course was completed (TN State BOE (June 27, 2018). Uniform Grading Policy, p.2).”

During the 17-18 school year, no student in MNPS forfeited honors points as a result of not taking an external assessment. However, pursuant to an agreement with TN State Board of Education, MNPS must come into compliance with the State Board policy during the 18-19 school year. These changes were referenced in the District AP/IB/AICE Student Contract distributed to all high schools in August 2018:

“… 5 points will be added to each grading period numeric grade and any semester exam administered. However, I understand that I MUST sit for the associated external exams in order to receive the additional points. This applies to all semesters for the relevant course.”
All students and families should be aware that removal of all honors points given for the Fall and Spring semester will occur if the student does not take each associated external assessment as part of the course requirement. In addition, if a student fails to take an associated external assessment, the student’s exam grade will be a 50. This may affect a student’s ability to graduate on time with his or her peers.

Questions can be directed to:

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