

Wednesday 3/18/2020 1:30pm

Hi everyone. We are still in the very early stages of all of this and there are plenty of rough edges that will need smoothing. We just received an e-mail from Dr. Durante that teachers should be following the normal school day schedule to avoid conflicts. It is the best way to handle the situation although I know people who have first period aren't going to be happy.

So going forward ...

Tomorrow, at 1:00pm I will have a review session regarding the Waste topic. Have your study guide and/or notes available and be ready to drive the conversation with your questions. I will probably also do an abridged lesson on the laws we learned on Thursday and Friday of last week for those who were out. If need be, I'll also come on at 9:00pm for those who may have had conflicts with the 1:00pm time. I'll make a final decision on time tomorrow based on feedback from you guys.

Friday I will open the AP Classroom assignment on Waste. This will replace the test we were going to have on Tuesday. Let's put this flat out on the table right now... It is already a difficult task to make sure we are individually accountable for our own work under normal circumstances, but the way we have to proceed online creates even more of a problem maintaining the integrity of assessments meant to serve as a check on your own individual knowledge and understanding.

I'm not really sure how grades are going to work, or even if it is an ultimate concern, but at least we will have checkpoints, completed assignments, and assessments that can be used to calculate a grade if necessary. At this point, I just want to finish what we have started together. I would like you to continue to stay a responsible student, come to "class" during established times, be an active participant in your own learning, and complete any work assigned. This is a better assessment of who you really are than any test of knowledge I could ever give you anyway.

Many people have asked me ... How are grades going to be determined? Will there be an AP Exam? Will there still be Regents exams? Will I get the credit for the courses I have taken? What will they do for prom? Graduation? What about next year? Will this affect the start of college life? Kansas has shut down their schools and there has been news that California and Ohio are considering it as well. Once again, there is just too much to sort out and process. The other issue we have is that we have to accept that we have no real control or influence over any of how this will all play out.

Right now I am doing triple-duty. I am trying to modify what I do to keep you guys on track and prepared for whatever is to come, as well as trying to help my ELL Earth Science students progress forward (with both science and English!). I also am trying to keep my own boys active, occupied, and productive as their schools and activities have all disappeared from their lives.

Our next meeting will be next Monday (W-day) during our normal (but slightly modified) time slots. Period 1-2 we will meet at 8:00-9:00am and Period 5-6 at 11:00am-12pm. Being that the administration has directed teachers to meet with students during our class time, there should be no conflicts and I expect you to be there. Notice that I shortened the double-period time slot that we usually have together, and will only keep you as long as needed to get you moving forward. This will also save me a ton of time that I have been using to compose these messages to you!

See you tomorrow,

Mr. Romano