



# WASHINGTON LATIN

## END-OF-YEAR GUIDE

### *COVID-19 CLOSURE EDITION*

#### GRADING/CEREMONIES/CALENDAR

MAY 1, 2020

## End-of-Year (EOY) Overview

### Middle School

- *The last day of classes in the Middle School, grades 5-8, will be June 5.*
- We will hold our annual Valediction (Latin for “goodbye”) Ceremony virtually on June 9. We will send more details about the ceremony later in the month.
- *For students in grades 5 and 6, there will be no final assessments.* Classes will end on June 5<sup>th</sup>, and teachers will work to bring closure to the year primarily through reflection.
- We will also explore ways for our 5th and 6th graders to have their traditional field days when we return to school.
- There will be a version of final assessments in Grades 7-8, as described below.

### Upper School

- *Classes in the Upper School will end over the course of the week of June 1, with the last classes held on Friday, June 5.* See below about end-of-the-year assessments (EOYA).
- Students who need to make up end-of-the-year assessments will do so on June 8.
- Upper School Valediction will be on Wednesday, June 10; details about that ceremony will follow later in the month.
- *We are hoping to put on a live graduation celebration on June 12* for seniors and their parents. Senior families have received information about our thinking and will receive frequent updates.

In this document, you will find details regarding assessments and grading, our celebrations, and key dates coming up May-August.

*NB: we will provide more information about other end-of-year logistics (such as locker clean out) later this month.*

## End-of-year Assessments (EOYA)

### Grade 7

We typically begin final exams in grade 7. *This year, our 7<sup>th</sup> grade students will have end-of-year assessments in English, Math, and Latin*, but the grade on this assessment will simply be included as part of the 4th quarter grade rather than a separate grading category. Each teacher will announce the nature, timing and due date for these assessments for each class.

### Grades 8-12

*Students in grades 8-12 will have EOYA in place of final exams.* These assessments are designed to bring closure to the academic year in a given course and are **not intended as a cumulative review of the year's work**. They do not aim to cover all units studied this year.

**Each department at Latin (e.g. Science, English, etc.) has chosen a format for the final assessments for all classes in that department.** Below is a listing of the formats.

Department	Assessment	Final Assessment Due Date	End of Classes
Latin	Comparative translation Artistic representation of school motto	June 1 by 9pm	June 1
History (incl. DC History, Government)	Document-Based Question (DBQ)	June 2 by 9pm	June 2
Electives	Arts, Health, Meditation, Conflict Resolution, etc. TBA by each teacher	June 2 by 9pm	June 2
Science	Application question with data analysis	June 3 by 9pm	June 3
World Languages	Oral interviews	June 3 by 9pm	June 3
English	Creative dialogue	June 4 by 9pm	June 4
Mathematics	More standard final test	June 5 by 9pm	June 5
<i>June 5 is the last day of all classes.</i>			

*Students will receive information about these end-of-year assessments by May 11.* Teachers will devote ample class time between May 11 and June 5 to the completion of these assessments.

## Our Approach to Grading

While we have aimed to keep students on track and learning during this period of online education, we recognize that the circumstances are certainly not ideal. As such, we are adjusting how final grades for the semester are calculated. By doing so, we aim to maintain a serious academic atmosphere in our online program and yet demonstrate understanding of the adverse circumstances we currently face.

In order to minimize the weight of the period of distance learning, we will calculate final grades according to the weights as shown in the table below. These percentages significantly minimize the effect of the 4th quarter grades for both Middle and Upper School students, as well as the results of the end-of-the-year assessment in grades 7-12.

Grade Level	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	EOYA
5 & 6	30%	30%	30%	10%	NA
7	30%	30%	30%	10%	Included in Q4 grade
8	25%	25%	25%	15%	10%
9 - 12	25%	25%	25%	15%	10%
Sem 2 Classes	NA	NA	60%	30%	10%

Once all 4th quarter assignments and final assessments have been graded and final grades computed, we will conduct a careful review of all students' grades and especially those whose grades were significantly decreased by the period of distance learning. If needed, we will make adjustments in a student's favor. *We have absolutely no intent to penalize a student for these most unfortunate circumstances.*

The academic team has already begun this review to see how many students' grades have increased, remained the same, or declined during the period of distance learning. These results are fascinating to us from an educational point of view, revealing a great deal about how some of our students learn best. We will definitely consider this data in our academic planning for 2020-2021.

## Promotion and Retention

*No student will be penalized for promotion to the next grade level because of the lack of in-person academic support and teaching.* We will use the summer months to fill in as many gaps as we can, with our summer program designed to prioritize providing academic support for struggling students (please see below). Any decision to retain a student will follow discussions between the school and the family, taking into consideration this spring's adverse circumstances.

Students who fail courses in the Upper School will have a chance to retake these courses in our summer school, either through our online summer program or in a more intensive approach either at school or online. As is always the case, we will carefully track the credits for every Upper School student, and, in conjunction with the family, decide on an appropriate plan for the coming years.

## Summer School – 6/22 through 7/24

**Summer school will consist of one five-week session for all courses.** The program will include two parts: an online component for enrichment and advancement, and an intensive program either in-person or online for those students who need remediation.

*Students who need remediation after this period of distance learning OR who have failed courses are REQUIRED to attend summer school, whether online or in person.* It is crucial that we be able to catch up those students who did not fare well during this period of distance learning. Details about the curriculum and registration for the online component for enrichment and advancement will be announced by May 8.

## Next School Year 2020-21

Advisors will work with rising 9-12<sup>th</sup> grade students on next year's course selections May 4-28.  
*Course selection forms are due to the advisor by Friday, May 29.*

*2020-21 will begin on August 24.* Washington Latin will not open in early August for 2020-21.

## Spring/Summer 2020 Key Dates

### MAY

*Friday 5/8 – Families receive registration information about summer school*  
Monday 5/11 - Advanced Placement Exams begin; *students receive information for all EYOA*  
Friday 5/15 – Upper School Virtual Hook  
Friday 5/22 – Last Day of Advanced Placement Exams  
Monday 5/25 – Memorial Day (no classes)  
Wednesday 5/27 - Senior Recitations  
Friday 5/29 – Course selection forms due for rising 9-12<sup>th</sup> graders

### JUNE

Monday 6/1 – Friday 6/5 – Final assessments for grades 7-12 (see chart above)  
*Friday 6/5 – Last day of classes – all grades*  
Monday, 6/8 – Make up exams  
Tuesday 6/9 – Middle School Virtual Valediction (time TBD)  
Wednesday 6/10 – Upper School Virtual Valediction (time TBD)  
Thursday 6/11 – Senior Virtual Campfire  
*Friday 6/12 – Graduation (event details TBD)*  
*Monday 6/22 - 1st Day of Summer School*

### JULY

Friday 7/3 – No Summer School (holiday)  
*Friday 7/24 - Last Day of Summer School*

### AUGUST

Thursday 8/20 – New Student Orientation (all 5<sup>th</sup>, new-to-Latin 9<sup>th</sup>) – Details TBD  
Friday 8/21 – Parent-Advisor Conferences – Details TBD  
*Monday 8/24 – First Day of School!*