

Mr. Barge's Instructional Tip of the Week!

The Final Stretch



In the true spirit of this weekend's Kentucky Derby, I think it's only fitting to say, "And down the stretch we come!" Believe it or not, we are in our "final stretch" (final marking period) of the school year. I know we are planning our final lessons of the curriculum, mapping out review lessons in preparation for Regents exams, and having conversations with students who have fallen behind and supporting their efforts to meet course requirements and succeed.

As you all know, the success of our students sometimes extends well beyond our classrooms walls and I ask you all to continue to encourage students to attend after school review sessions and tutoring. Additionally, parental outreach and communication with students' guidance counselors is essential in helping students meet their greatest potential. Such collaboration and communication has come to define our community and is needed now more than ever. Our recent marking period stats indicate that many students continue to struggle. Below will find a comparison of marking period 2 credit accumulation stats of the last full in person academic year (pre-pandemic) and this spring (credit accumulation stats are students currently passing 5+ classes for spring semester compared to our last in person spring semester)– **Please note that these numbers not only reveal a decrease in numbers, but they also reveal that as of marking period 2, almost 1 out of every 3 of our students are not passing at least one class and approximately 60% of our lowest third students are failing at least one class.**

Cohort	Spring 2018-2019	Spring 2021-2022		Cohort – Lowest Third	Spring 2018-2019	Spring 2021-2022	
Juniors	72.3%	61.7%	-10.6%	Juniors	52.1%	38.2%	-13.9%
Soph.	72.1%	67.3%	-4.8%	Soph.	48.1%	43%	-5.1%
Fresh.	72.8%	63.7%	-9.1%	Fresh.	48.8%	41.8%	-7%

Additionally, data shows that our 50% failure rates (students failing 50% or more of their classes- Spring MP2 was 640 students) and 100% failure rates (students failing all of their classes – Spring MP2 was 218 students) are the highest they have been in the last seven years.

I know you all have been working exceptionally hard this year and I can't thank you enough for the amazing **CARE** that you provide our students each and every day. I ask you to please continue these efforts during this final stretch especially your efforts to plan engaging lessons, and supports, for all students as well as continuing your parental outreach and guidance counselor outreach.

... because at Edward R. Murrow High School, we **CARE** about our students!