

Walkout information from Mr. Wenneborg,

Ok, let's talk about what is coming up and what I can do to help you finish the school year successfully. I will not be here on Thursday and possibly longer. I will do my duty to provide plans for the substitute teacher as long as it takes. What you need to know is that this is a very difficult situation for all teacher and most of you. We don't take it lightly and understand the stress it can create.

Teachers in the state voted overwhelmingly to walk out. We cannot strike because this is right-to-work state. Not coming to work is a fire-able offense under the category of dereliction of duty. However, by not coming to school, I feel that we are making a very necessary statement. It's a risk I'm willing to take at this point in my career. Please understand that it is the job of all administration to try to keep the schools open and I respect that. Some students rely on school for food and for safety. I believe that all of that will be available.

Here is what it means for you. I will simply tell you what I know to be true with as little speculation as possible. First, graduation will happen on its scheduled date no matter what. If you are due to graduate, you will go to the ceremony and they will call your name and you'll proudly walk up to the stage, take your selfie, and get your diploma. It will likely be a blank piece of paper as it always is. Then, as long as you have finished your coursework, you will get the real diploma. I see a few possibilities here... First, this thing is over and nothing is affected (we are likely over our mandated number of days in class and won't have to make any days up.) Second, it lasts a week or so and we have to make up a few days before or after graduation. You may even take your finals after graduation. Third, this walkout is indefinite... This is where there is some speculation. I would predict that in the event a walkout lasts until the end of the semester, the district would have to close the semester with the grades students have at the end of the day on April 25th. Your grades would then need to be calculated using a 50/50 weight on both quarters with no final exam. I don't see this happening, but just in case, get all of your work finished by Wednesday at 3:30 and get it to your teachers. I promise I will have a fully updated gradebook before I walk out.

Additionally, I will post all necessary review materials, extra credit assignments, make-up work, and updates on my website. I will be out of school, but my phone dings every time I get an email. You can email me any time to ask about missing assignments, questions, etc. I'm happy to do it.

Q: Could you lose your job?

A: Yes, technically. I'm really not worried about that. They would have to fire tens of thousands of teachers.

Q: What if we come back and we fail our final exams?

A: Your semester grade is 20% of your semester grade. Try to create a cushion in the coming days to prevent failing the semester if you fail the final.

Q: Will you accept work given over email?

A: Yes, but it needs to be presented with all work. Photos of original and completed work properly labeled and with a heading will be given the appropriate late grade that is much better than a 0.

Q: How will we know if we have school or not?

A: This will be very much like snow days in the colder parts of the country. Turn the local news on every morning and there will be a list of closures and schools that are open. I am certain you and your parents will be updated via email from the district as well.