# Reluctant Zero Policy

Starts: September 2017

Background:  At WCHS, it is understood that students complete assignments and projects for practice and for evaluation.  Assignments can be used to calculate a final mark.  It is believed that students need to complete all assigned work in order to master the skills required to meet curricular outcomes.  Therefore, teachers will work with students to ensure the work is completed and will only award a grade of zero reluctantly.

The intent of the policy is to encourage students to complete all tasks in order to master the curricular outcomes.  It allows students to complete work after deadlines.  It only applies if the reasons for incomplete work are legitimate, and if the student makes arrangements with his/her teacher to complete the work at a later date.

Parameters:
1.  A reluctant zero policy will apply to daily tasks and assignments.  Major projects and evaluations are expected to be completed by all students in a timely manner.  Parent and grade advisor communication will be utilized for students who do not complete major evaluative tasks that greatly affect their marks.
2.  Students must take ownership of their learning.  If they fail to complete a daily task or assignment, they must talk to their teacher about the potential zero.
3.  Students can access their marks through Maplewood or printouts from their teacher to keep track of their incomplete assignments.
4.  Students may only work to complete tasks in the current reporting period.  Once report cards are issued, marks are locked and zeros will be reluctantly awarded.
5.  Teachers will consider the reasons for absences before awarding a zero.  Excused absences may be considered as a reason to take in work beyond a scheduled due date.
6.  If a teacher feels that a student is overusing the reluctant zero policy, he/she will contact a parent to discuss work ethic and homework habits of the student.
7.  If a teacher determines that a student is abusing the policy, the privilege can be rescinded by the teacher.