

### Citizenship “U” Make-up Criteria

We initially implemented our Citizenship policy so that we could differentiate academic grades from behavior. Our goal was to have the academic grade be a direct indicator of a student’s learning. The citizenship grade was intended to communicate the way a student was behaving in class. Both grades count toward graduation. After a few years of fine-tuning our citizenship policy, we have noticed a problem that we need to address.

The administration gives one citizenship grade per term based solely on attendance. This citizenship grade reflects attendance in all classes for that term. Research shows that learning improves when students are in class, on time, and ready to learn. We have set up the following scale to award administrative citizenship credit:

- Students start with an H each term
- A combination of unexcused absences and tardies will lower the citizenship grade
- Five unexcused absences in one term will lower their citizenship grade one grade
- 10 unexcused absences will lower their citizenship grade another grade
- 15 unexcused absences will result in the student receiving a U
- 8 tardies in one term will also lower their citizenship grade one grade
- 12 tardies will lower their citizenship grade another grade
- 16 tardies will result in the student receiving a U

We have noticed that once a student has had their grade lowered to a U, we have lost some of the incentive from the citizenship policy for the student to attend. For example, a student with 16 unexcused absences gets a “U”. The same student could then accrue absences to 50+ and his/her Citizenship grade is still a “U”. Therefore, we are making the following changes to the requirements of our “U” make-up.

1. Every Citizenship “U” a student receives from the Administration, an email will be sent home to notify parents. It is then up to the student to meet with an administrator to come up with a plan to make up the “U”.

2. We hope the following plan will allow us to help a student understand the importance of being in class on time. We will approach this issue by installing the following consequences for excessive truancy issues.

If a student has 3+ U's, they will not be able to graduate from Salem Hills High School. If a student receives a U from a teacher, they can clear it with that teacher.

To clear an administrative U, the process will be:

A total of community service hours will be assigned according to the following:

- For every hour over 15, the student will be assigned community service time to make up the U.
- 1 hour for every unexcused absence or sluff
- 30 minutes for every tardy

Students can clear half of those hours by earning administrative citizenship credit the next term (earning an H, S, or N for their administrative citizenship).

A student can attend a Saturday service day and will work 3 hrs. and will receive 5 hrs credit (Cost of \$10 per student to pay for supervision.) Students will work Saturdays to complete community service requirements to become eligible to graduate.

If a student wishes to graduate without completing community service, they will be offered the opportunity to graduate through Landmark.