

**Covid-19 Grading Guidelines**

**April 9, 2020**

While we realize at-home assignments do not have the same impact as regular classroom instruction, our goal is to continue to create valuable learning opportunities for our students. We will keep connecting with our students and parents to support learning and progress as we navigate this unusual situation.

The third nine-week grading period ended on March 23, 2020, and the fourth nine-week grading period is March 24 – June 4, 2020. Report cards for the third nine-week grading period are available in the Skyward Home Access Center. Grading guidelines for the fourth nine weeks are outlined in this document.

**Kindergarten – 8th Grade**

Teachers will focus on continuing the instruction to prepare students for the next grade level. K-5 students will receive two grades in Reading, Language Arts, and Math and one grade in Science and Social Studies each week. Students in 6th-8th grade will receive two grades per week in all core subject areas and one grade per week in non-core subjects, which includes electives.

Online assignments in Canvas must be completed and submitted electronically to the teacher. Printed instructional material must be submitted either electronically through email or picture messages or returned on the designated drop-off dates. Students will be assessed on participation and successful completion of the assigned work. Students can improve their grade during the 4th nine-week period, but the 4th nine-week average will not negatively impact student averages. If the 3rd nine-week grade is higher than the 4th nine-week grade, the 3rd nine-week grade will be counted twice in the overall average.

**Kindergarten – 8th Grade Fourth Nine-Week Averaging Examples**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **1st 9 weeks**  **grade** | **2nd 9 weeks**  **grade** | **3rd 9 weeks grade** | **4th 9 weeks grade** | **Yearly Average** |
| **Example 1** | 90 | 80 | 80 | 60 80 | (90+80+80+80)/4 = 83% |
| **Example 2** | 90 | 80 | 60 | 80 | (90+80+60+80)/4=  78% |
| **Example 3** | 90 | 80 | 60 | 60 | (90+80+60+60)/4 =  73% |
| **Example 3** | 70 | 80 | 90 | 87 90 | (70+80+90+90)/4 =  83% |

Grade 3-8 STAAR will not be given in May of 2020.

**High School**

Teachers will assign student work through Canvas. Assignments will be graded and entered into Skyward. Students will be assessed on participation and the quality of the work submitted. Grades in the 4th nine-week grading period will not negatively impact student averages. The spring 2020 semester average will be determined by the 3rd nine-week grade and the ***higher*** of the 3rd or 4th nine-week grade. If the 3rd nine-week grade is higher than the 4th nine-week grade, the 3rd nine-week grade will be counted twice in the semester average.

**Fourth Nine-Week Averaging Examples**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **3rd 9 weeks grade** | **4th 9 weeks grade** | **Semester Grade** |
| **Example 1**  **Does better in 4th 9 weeks** | 80 | 90 | (80+90)/2 = 85% Final Semester Grade |
| **Example 2**  **Does better in 3rd 9 weeks** | 90 | 70 | (90+90)/2 = 90% Final Semester Grade  (4th 9 wks not used in calculation) |
| **Example 3**  **Fails 4th 9 weeks** | 80 | 60 | (80+80)/2 = 80% Final Semester Grade  (4th 9 wks not used in calculation) |
| **Example 4**  **Failed 3rd & 4th 9 weeks** | 60 | 50 | Student does not earn credit for the spring semester |
| **Example 5**  **Failed 3rd 9 weeks but does better the 4th 9 weeks** | 60 | 80 | (60+80)/2 = 70% Final Semester Grade |

District leaders considered all options and determined that recording numerical grades is in the best interest of students because:

* Pass/Fail does not provide all students with the opportunity to raise their overall semester average/GPA by being engaged in their learning in the 4th nine-week grading period.
* Having numerical grades for each semester allows high school students in year-long courses to earn full credit if the average of the two semesters is 70 or higher.
* The NCAA Clearinghouse treats a grade of “Pass” as the lowest possible grade. This would put our students who are interested in collegiate athletics at a disadvantage compared to students coming from districts that recorded numerical grades.

Students enrolled in Dual Credit or OnRamps courses will use the grading requirements provided by College of the Mainland and the University of Texas.

STAAR End-of-Course exams will not be given in April, May or June 2020. Normally, passing an EOC exam is a graduation requirement. However, this school year only, students currently enrolled in EOC tested courses (English I, English II, Algebra I, Biology and U.S. History) will not have to complete the corresponding EOC test provided they earn course credit during the 2019-2020 school year.

Most seniors have already completed courses that have corresponding EOC assessments. For seniors who are still working to meet assessment graduation requirements, The Texas Education Agency is waiving the required performance on EOC assessments for the spring of 2020. If your student is a senior and has not passed all EOC exams, your campus counselor will be contacting you regarding the Individual Graduation Committee process.

**Summary**

Until students are able to return to school, teachers will continue to monitor student progress, provide instruction and support to students at home and communicate regularly with families. Work will be reviewed and grades will be posted in Skyward. If you have concerns or need assistance, please contact your child’s campus principal.