



FRIDAY BLAST 4/17/2020



Dear Bell Families,

In response to a notice that Jeffco sent out to all families on April 13 about new grading guidelines during the period of remote learning (*refer to the bottom of this correspondence), we have customized those guidelines for Bell students, per the direction of that correspondence.

*Grades posted as of March 11, 2020, the last day of 3rd quarter, will serve as the lowest possible final grade a student can receive for spring semester **as long as students continue to participate**. Students will also be able to improve their grades from this point in time, as long as they continue to engage and participate in the class. Bell Middle School's criteria that qualifies a student as participating in a class is defined here.*

Bell Middle School's Definition of Participation

- Students make a good faith effort to *attempt and/or complete at least 60%* of all the required work a teacher assigns in a class, starting on March 12 and ending May 22, 2020. In addition, students and/or parents consistently communicate with the teacher throughout that period.
 - Attempt/complete is defined as having done *something that leaves a digital footprint that demonstrates the student engaged in the work assigned*.
 - ALL Work assigned is defined as everything the teacher grades or marks as complete/incomplete put together, including documentation used for attendance, per each teacher's policies.
 - Assignments must be turned-in / submitted to the teacher by the deadline (ideally), or no later than May 20.

Grading

1. Teachers will continue to grade assignments per their individual policies. *Students' work will be measured based on progress towards mastery of content standards, **with the understanding that the final grade for the semester will not drop below the grade a student was earning as of March 11, if the student meets the Bell criteria for continued participation in the class.***
 - a. The final grade for the semester will be based on an average of 3rd and 4th quarter's grades. If the averaged grade is lower than the 3rd quarter grade, then the student's grade will be changed to what they had earned as of March 11 (end of 3rd quarter), as long as they meet the Bell criteria for continued participation in the class as of March 12.
 - b. Grades will continue to be documented into Infinite Campus, the online gradebook.
 - c. Depending on students' performance on the assignments, the overall grade will fluctuate and may appear to drop on a day-to-day basis in Infinite Campus. However, as long as the student meets the criteria for participating in the class, that final semester grade will be adjusted to be no lower than the grade the student had earned as of March 11.
2. Students' grades **can also increase** based on the grades they earn on their assignments.
3. As of April 20th, late work will be accepted until May 20. Individual teacher policies regarding late work apply before this date. Still, students should make every effort to meet deadlines and avoid turning-in late work.
4. As of April 20th, no points will be deducted for late work in any classes for the rest of 4th quarter.
5. No additional work will be assigned the week of May 18-22. This week will be set aside for make-up work, community building, and community closure to the school year.

6th grade Wheel Classes (World Cultures, Composition, 21st Century Skills, and pre-engineering)

In 6th grade, one of their electives is referred to as a "wheel" elective. These are quarter-long classes where each 6th grader engages in a different elective (all four are listed above) each quarter. These are the only quarter-long classes offered at Bell. Because of this, 6th graders entered a new class on March 12, with new teachers; they only had two class periods that were face-to-face. Because of the challenges that transitioning to remote learning under these circumstances presents, *we have decided that 6th graders will earn a pass/no credit grade for the wheel class they are taking during 4th quarter.*

Individual Considerations - When students are having troubles accessing the learning due to illness, personal crisis, lack of access to technology (Internet connectivity, broken devices, etc.), ***it is critical that they communicate this to their counselor and/or teachers.*** When assessing students' abilities to participate in the learning, we will take into

