



## **COVID-19 Grading Guidelines**

April 6, 2020

The third nine-week grading period ended March 6, 2020, and the fourth nine-week grading period is March 16 – May 21, 2020. Although school buildings are closed, our teachers are continuing to plan, provide, review and support student learning while students are at home. Our purpose is to support learning in order to determine levels of proficiency so that we can ensure students are prepared academically to successfully move to the next grade level or course. Using the considerations listed below, the grading guidelines outlined in this document have been developed for the current grading period.

- We understand the COVID-19 pandemic is having an overwhelming impact on our families and community, and we want to extend grace to students during this crisis.
- We understand the shift to remote learning at home is a major transition that has impacted instruction and our traditional grading system.
- We understand that students within our district have varying levels of support and instructional resources at home.

Additional considerations for high school students included:

- Pass/Fail does not provide all students with the opportunity to raise their overall semester average/GPA by being engaged in their learning this 4<sup>th</sup> nine-week grading period, including students who may have failed the 3<sup>rd</sup> nine weeks.
- For students in grades 9-11, Pass/Fail would cause a huge negative impact. Students would lose an entire semester of weighted credit, and class rank is pulled from the semester average.
- The NCAA Clearinghouse treats a grade of "Pass" as the lowest possible passing 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.

### **Elementary, Middle School and Junior High**

Teachers will focus on preparing students for the next grade level. Students will receive one grade per week in Math, Science, Social Studies, Reading and Language Arts. Grades will be base-lined from the student's third nine-week average. Students can improve their grade, but they should not fall below the third nine-week grade.

Online assignments and/or paper instructional packets must be completed and returned to the teacher. Students will be assessed on participation and successful completion of the work. Teachers will regularly communicate with the student and/or parent, and they will track student mastery and growth.

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

If grade-level retention was being considered for an elementary student before the close of school on March 6<sup>th</sup>, and the school team and parent were in agreement, a continuation of that discussion may proceed. In addition, the third nine-week report card, reading assessment data, and MAP data must have indicated that the student was experiencing difficulty that warranted retention. The school team and parents should be in agreement about the

appropriateness of the proposed placement for 2020-2021. The COVID-19 closure of schools should not be a factor in retention considerations.

Eighth grade students enrolled in high school courses will use the grading guidelines designated for high school students.

### Dickinson High School

Teachers will assign student work that requires students to demonstrate their learning. Assignments will be graded and the grades will be entered into Skyward. Students will be assessed on the quality of their work and the frequency of the work submitted. Grades in the 4<sup>th</sup> nine-week grading period will not negatively impact student averages/GPA if a student attempts to participate and complete the work. The 2020 spring semester average will be determined by the 3<sup>rd</sup> nine-week grade and the higher of the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> nine-week grade in most situations. \*See the chart below for examples

Spring Semester Hold-Harmless Averaging Examples			
	3 <sup>rd</sup> 9 weeks grade	4 <sup>th</sup> 9 weeks grade	Semester Grade
<b>Example 1</b> <i>Does better the 4<sup>th</sup> 9 wks.</i>	<b>80</b>	<b>90</b>	$(80+90) / 2 = 85\%$ Final Semester Grade
<b>Example 2</b> <i>Does better the 3<sup>rd</sup> 9 wks.</i>	<b>84</b>	<b>74</b>	$(84+84) / 2 = 84\%$ Final Semester Grade <i>(4<sup>th</sup> 9 wks. is not used in calculation)</i>
<b>Example 3</b> <i>Fails the 4<sup>th</sup> 9 wks.</i>	<b>75</b>	<b>65</b>	$(75+75) / 2 = 75\%$ Final Semester Grade <i>(4<sup>th</sup> 9 wks. is not used in calculation)</i>
<b>Example 4</b> <i>Does better the 4<sup>th</sup> 9 wks.</i>	<b>60</b>	<b>80</b>	$(60+80) / 2 = 70\%$ Final Semester Grade
<b>Example 5</b> <i>No valid attempt 4<sup>th</sup> 9 wks.</i>	<b>80</b>	<b>40</b>	$(80+40) / 2 = 60\%$ Final Semester Grade <i>Student did not make a valid attempt to participate/complete work</i>
<b>Example 6</b> <i>Student failed both 9 wks.</i>	<b>50</b>	<b>50</b>	<i>Student does not earn credit for the spring semester</i>

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

STAAR End-of-Course exams will not be given in May or June 2020. Normally, passing an EOC exam is a graduation requirement for EOC-tested courses (English I, English II, Algebra I, Biology and U.S. History). The EOC graduation requirement for students currently enrolled in these courses will be waived by The Texas Education Agency if the student earns credit for the course.

Most seniors have already completed courses that have corresponding EOC assessments. For seniors who are still working to meet assessment graduation requirements as seniors in the 2019-2020 school year, required performance on EOC academic assessments is being waived by The Texas Education Agency for spring 2020. Current seniors may graduate through the Individual Graduation Committee (IGC) process. DHS counselors are working with students who need to meet this requirement.

### Dickinson Continuation Center

DCC is an accelerated high school campus that operates on a 9-week semester instructional calendar. Therefore, students enrolled at DCC must complete and pass their instructional courses assigned during the COVID-19 school closure in order to receive credit for the semester. Teachers will regularly monitor student progress, and they will communicate frequently with students.

## **Summary**

Grade reports for the third nine-week grading period are available in Skyward. Until students are able to return to school, teachers will continue to provide instruction and support to students at home. They will review completed work and post grades in Skyward, and they will communicate regularly. If you have concerns or need assistance, please contact your child's campus principal.