



BELLS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Josh Weger, Assistant Superintendent

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Dear Parent or Guardian:

For Bells ISD students, the “Connected Learning” plan began on March 23rd. While we definitely miss our students and prefer to see them face-to-face, we are working hard to provide meaningful learning for our students during this closure. The Texas Education Agency still expects us to monitor progress and to prepare students for promotion to the next grade level, and we are striving to accomplish that goal. Due to the drastic changes in the delivery of instruction, adjustments to our typical grading practices have been implemented. All adjustments are designed to benefit and support students as they transition to a new format of learning. A complete document will be posted on the district’s website under the “Connected Learning” tab, but the most relevant guidelines are summarized below.

- Grades will still be entered in our online gradebook through this 4th quarter. Teachers will strive to update the online gradebook each week.
- Teachers are only giving one graded assignment per week. There may be daily activities on the Connected Learning template related to the week’s learning objectives, but there will only be one assignment for a grade each week. The graded assignment will focus on the essential standards for the week.
- There will only be one grading category during the Connected Learning period. All grades entered will count as daily grades. There will be no tests during the closure.
- Grade weights still apply for advanced courses at the high school level. This applies to our designated Dual Credit, Advanced Placement, and Pre AP courses.
- The due date for weekly assignments is each Friday at midnight. Work will be accepted at any point after the due date, but it will only receive a max score of 85.
- Teachers will drop the lowest weekly grade for each subject during the Connected Learning time. We realize this can be a tough time for families in our community, so we hope this provides a little relief if a student is unable to complete assignments one week.
- If we resume school face-to-face on May 4th and a student did not complete work during the closure, he or she may still complete the weekly assignments for a max grade of 85 to obtain a passing score for the semester.
- If we do not resume school face-to-face this semester, students’ grades for the 4th quarter will be based on the weekly assignments. If teachers do not receive the weekly assignments before the deadline, a 0 will be entered in the online gradebook for those assignments. However, the grades will be changed once the assignments are submitted (max of 85).
- If a student fails for the semester, Bells ISD plans to offer a face-to-face summer school once the closure is lifted for students to complete the weekly assignments and regain credit for promotion / graduation. We hope that is not needed and all students are finished on May 28th as scheduled. For that reason, we will do everything in our power to help students complete

the weekly assignments. Please contact your child's teacher or campus principal if there are any issues preventing your student from doing so.

- Grade-point-average and class rank for seniors only includes grades through the 3rd quarter as stated in board policy. Only grades taken up to March 6th were counted in the 3rd quarter grades. However, Seniors still need to pass all coursework in order to satisfy graduation requirements.
- We WILL HAVE a graduation ceremony. We hope it is Saturday, May 30th at 10 am as scheduled, but please know Bells ISD is committed to holding a graduation ceremony at any point before August 2020. Our Seniors have attended school for 13 years, and we want them to have the opportunity to walk across the stage.

The grading guidelines described in this document are what best serves our student-body at this time. As you all know, the challenges presented by the Covid-19 virus are constantly changing. Therefore, these grading guidelines may also change if there is a better way to meet the needs of our students and community. This is a very difficult time, and we are trying to navigate through this crisis in a way that best benefits the students and families of Bells. Be safe and please let us know if there are ways we can help.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Josh Weger". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

Josh Weger