



Philosophical Premise

- We understand these are especially uncertain times and that this pandemic has had overwhelming impacts on our families, and we want to extend grace to students during this time of crisis.
- We understand this shift to At-Home Instruction has significantly impacted our instructional systems, including grading and grades.
- We understand students have varied levels of support and instructional resources at home.

For these reasons, we moved away from numerical grading systems beginning with the fifth 6-week period and instead began providing qualitative feedback on progress toward mastery of content. Numeric grades will not be issued for the 5th or 6th week periods. Using qualitative feedback collected holistically for the spring semester, spring 2020 course completion will be determined using the following criteria.

Semester Average: The 2020 spring semester average will be determined by averaging the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th 6-week grades if the student completes the course satisfactorily (mastery of at least 70% of the objectives assigned). The 2020 spring semester average for one-semester courses will be determined by using the 4th 6-week grade. After successful completion, the spring semester will be awarded the numeric average of the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th 6-week grades with the lowest average awarded being 75. Semester exams will not be administered and will not calculate into the semester average.

Spring Semester Examples- Cases where Spring 2020 Course Reflects Mastery

	1st 6 wks	2nd 6 wks	3rd 6 wks	4th 6 wks	Calculations	Spring 2020 Semester Average
Pre-AP Geometry	94	89	85	96	$((94+89+85+96)/4)=91$	91 (*enhanced GPA)
AP English	85	82	91	78	$((85+82+91+78)/4)=84$	84 (*enhanced GPA)
Algebra I	79	75	73	81	$((79+75+73+81)/4)=77$	77
English 2	74	73	60	62	$((74+73+60+62)/4)=72$	75
BIM 1	80	70	60	82	$((80+70+60+82)/4)=73$	**75
Art 1	72	71	64	62	$((72+71+64+62)/4)=67$	**75



Pre-AP Biology	72	75	77	78	$((72+75+77+78)/4)=76$	*76 (*enhanced GPA)
Govt.(.5) Spring '20	na	na	na	82	82	82
Reading (Elem)	94	89	85	96	$((94+89+85+96)/4)=91$	91
Math (Elem)	85	82	91	78	$((85+82+91+78)/4)=84$	84
Science (Elem)	79	75	73	81	$((79+75+73+81)/4)=77$	77

*enhanced GPA- courses that carry a 5.0 weight when calculating GPA

**Not calculated in GPA

Rationale for Not Using Pass/Fail Grading

- The pass/fail system awards a 70 for the spring 2020 course average and would **lose the entire semester of weighted grade point averaging**, which would significantly lower GPA in most cases.
- Pass/fail negatively impacts students who would have received an A or B in the course.
- Students would lose the entire semester of weighted credit because rank is pulled from the semester average, which negatively impacts students taking high school credit courses.
- The NCAA Clearinghouse treats a “pass” as the lowest possible passing grade. This could put our students who are interested in collegiate athletics at a disadvantage compared to students coming from districts that recorded numerical grades. College courses also look at a “pass” as a C.

Assignments: Grades shall not be assigned for At-Home Assignments. All assignments will be considered formative. Students receiving special education services will have progress in their IEP goals monitored and tracked in Frontline/eSPED. **The last day to assign new work for At-Home Assignments will be May 11th.** The last day to collect feedback for formative assignments assigned during At-Home Instruction to be used for the progress report will be May 21st for K-11 and May 19th for seniors.

Students not making progress on assignments or not participating during At-Home Instruction will be eligible for summer school or virtual summer school. For promotion to the next grade level, students will need to show mastery in courses as outlined here. A Grade Placement Committee (GPC) will be formed for any student at risk for being retained in grades K-8. Students receiving

codes of “NOT” or “I” are at risk of not being considered for promotion or obtaining credits required for high school graduation. Parents should contact the teacher or campus administration immediately if codes of “NOT” or “I” are awarded on the 9-weeks progress report or the At-Home Progress Report (January 7th-March 6th) and the At-Home Progress report (April 6-May 11th) and Final At-Home Progress (May 12th-May 22nd).

Progress Reports: A 9-week progress report was issued April 17th that used codes “OTM” (On Track to Mastery), “NOT” (Not on Track to Mastery), or “I” (Incomplete). Grade data collected and posted in Skyward during the fourth 6-week grading period and through March 6th was used to holistically assign “OTM,” “NOT,” or “I” to each student. The 9-week progress report was submitted by teachers in Skyward on April 15th and made available to parents through Skyward Family Access.

A second spring 2020 progress report will be issued May 13th. This progress report will use codes “OTM” (On Track to Mastery), “NOT” (Not on Track to Mastery), or “I” (Incomplete) and will summarize teacher feedback based on assignments given between April 6th and May 8th. Teachers will post in Skyward a code of either “OTM,” “NOT,” or “I,” which will be used for continued documentation purposes. The At-Home Progress Report will be submitted by teachers in Skyward during the window of May 8th-11th.

Progress Monitoring: Teachers will continue to review student work and support instruction by delivering an At-Home Learning system that accounts for periodic check-ins and feedback. Each teacher will provide students and parents with live and/or recorded lessons via Google Classroom along with scheduled office and tutorial hours. For students who do not have devices or the internet, we are offering the opportunity to checkout devices along with a variety of ways to communicate directly with the teacher using landline, smartphone, Dojo, Remind and other means outside of Google Classroom. Teachers will use communication logs to frequently document progress and to keep parents informed. Weekly codes “OTM” and “NOT” will be used in Skyward Gradebook beginning with the week of 4-28 (for the week of 4-21).

Course Credit: To receive credit for spring 2020 courses, students must show at least 70% mastery of objectives as assigned between January 7th and May 11th. A progress report code of “OTM” indicates the student is on track to obtaining credit in the course. Progress report codes of “NOT” or “I” indicate the student is at risk of not obtaining credit for the course. Progress reports of “OTM” do not carry an equivalent numerical grade and will not be calculated in Grade Point Average (GPA).

End of Course Exams (EOC): The State of Texas has exempted students from taking and passing EOC exams for spring 2020, but ONLY in cases where the student earns credit in the course through summer 2020. If a student does not earn credit in a course where the EOC is required the student will have to retake the course at a later time. In this case the student will be required to take and pass the EOC exam when they complete the course in order to graduate.

Student Schedule: Students should continue to spend up to three hours per day on

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assignments and formative assessments through the week of May 18 (the last week of At-Home assignments is the week of May 11th). While logging into Google Classroom and supporting sites is expected, it is not dependent on time of day. Parents are encouraged to review posted teacher hours in order to develop a schedule that works with a home schedule. This may vary based on devices, siblings, and courses taken. Parents are also encouraged to help their students set a schedule. Follow these links to view sample student schedules:

[K-6th Grade Sample Schedule](#) [6-8th Grade Sample Schedule](#) [9-12th Grade Sample Schedule](#)

Support: Students who need any type of support (tutoring/reteaching) should email and communicate with their teacher directly to schedule a session via the phone or a virtual platform. Teachers have scheduled regular office hours daily and weekly, along with posting videos of instruction. For younger elementary students, parents are encouraged to communicate with the teacher. Please ensure that you or your student communicates with their teacher via email, Google Classroom, or other means such as Dojo or Remind. Parents can also contact the campus principal or teacher directly with any concerns regarding At-Home Learning through May 22. Campus staff will work out a plan of action with the student or parent, which may include virtual summer school or summer school options. Parents can call the parent help desk line for technical assistance at 432-240-1110. More information can also be found at the following links:

www.midlandisd.net/athomelearning

[Community Wi-Fi Information](#)