

Gunter ISD Grading Guidelines During COVID-19 (Grades 3-12)



Philosophical Premises:

- We understand this global pandemic has had **overwhelming impacts** on all of our families and we want to extend grace to students during this time of crisis.
- We understand that this shift to remote learning has impacted the **instructional integrity** and the **integrity of our grading system**.
- We understand that students have **varying levels of support and instructional resources at home**.

Why Not Use Pass / Fail?

- Pass/Fail does not provide all students with the opportunity to **raise their overall semester** average/GPA by being engaged in their learning this 4th nine-week grading period, including students who failed the 3rd 9wks.
- By going Pass/Fail, students would **lose the entire semester of weighted credit**, as rank is pulled from the semester average, which is a huge negative impact for our grades 9-11 students.
- The NCAA Clearinghouse treats a grade of **“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.”
- Even if we go Pass/Fail, **many of these same questions and issues will need to be addressed**. With the required dropping of the lowest grades and the hold harmless clause we have in place, we feel like students will have multiple safety nets for success.

Secondary Grading Guidelines:

- Teachers will assign 1-2 assignments per week during the remaining 8 weeks of school
 - o **No less than 8 grades** per course during the 4th 9wks
 - o **No more than 16 grades** per course during the 4th 9wks
- All grades will be recorded in the **Daily Grades** of the gradebook
- Any grade that is significant (test/project-like) will be a **double daily grade**
- **A designated number of grades will be exempted** for all students
 - o 8-10 assignments: waive/exempt 1 assignment
 - o 11-13 assignments: waive/exempt 2 assignments
 - o 14-16 assignments: waive/exempt 3 assignments

- All assignments will have a **one-week timeframe** to complete / turn-in
- There will be an **additional week period of grace** beyond the initial deadline.
- There will be **no final exams** this semester.
- **The 4th 9wk average 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 3rd nine-week grade and the *higher* of the 3rd or 4th nine-week grade in most situations. **See chart below*

Spring Semester Hold-Harmless Averaging Examples

| | 3 rd 9wks Grade | 4 th 9wks Grade | Semester Grade |
|---|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| Example 1 <i>Does better the 4th 9wks</i> | 80 | 90 | $(80+90) / 2 = 85\%$ Final Semester Grade |
| Example 2 <i>Does better the 3rd 9wks</i> | 84 | 74 | $(84+84) / 2 = 84\%$ Final Semester Grade (4 th 9wks is not used in calculation) |
| Example 3 <i>Fails the 4th 9wks</i> | 75 | 65 | $(75+75) / 2 = 75\%$ Final Semester Grade (4 th 9wks is not used in calculation) |
| Example 4 <i>Does better the 4th 9wks</i> | 60 | 80 | $(60+80) / 2 = 70\%$ Final Semester Grade |
| Example 5 <i>Student didn't make a valid attempt at 4th 9wks</i> | 80 | 40 | Student did not make a valid attempt to participate / complete work (min of 60%) $(80+40) / 2 = 60\%$ Final Semester Grade |
| Example 6 <i>Student failed both 9wks</i> | 50 | 50 | Student does not earn credit for the spring semester |