

Quitman High School Grading Guidelines During COVID-19



Why Are We Changing Our Grading Guidelines?

- We understand this global pandemic has had **overwhelming impacts** on everyone. We want to **balance expectations** for teachers and families and to **extend GRACE to ALL** our QHS family during this time of crisis.
- We understand that this shift to remote learning has changed the **instructional impact** and we recognize the need to **preserve the integrity of our grading system**.
- We understand that students have **varying levels of support and instructional resources** at home.

Why Not Just Use Pass/Fail?

- Pass/Fail does not provide all students with the opportunity to **raise their overall semester** average/GPA. By including **numerical** grades earned during the 4th nine-week grading period, students have an opportunity to **raise a previous low or failing grade** from the 3rd 9 weeks and/or the 1st semester.
- By only providing Pass/Fail, students would **lose the entire semester of weighted credit**, as rank is pulled from the semester average.
- 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.

What Are the New Secondary Grading Guidelines?

- **No less than 9 grades and no more than 12 grades** per course during the 4th 9 weeks. Teachers may still give some ungraded assignments, and there is no limit to those.
- All grades will be **weighted the same** in the gradebook.
- Any grade that is significant (test/project-like) will count **twice** in the gradebook.
- All assignments will have a **one-week timeframe** to be completed / turned-in.
- There will be an **additional week period of grace** beyond the initial deadline.
- **The 4th 9 week average will not negatively impact student averages/GPA**. 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.
- There will be **no final exams** this semester.

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What About STAAR End of Course (EOC) tests?

- **Grades 3-8 STAAR and EOCs will not be given this spring or summer.** Normally, passing an EOC test is a graduation requirement. However, **this school year only**, students currently enrolled in EOC-tested courses (English I, English II, Algebra I, Biology, and U.S. History) will **NOT have to complete their corresponding EOC test, provided they earn course credit during the 2019-2020 school year.**
- If your child is a senior and has not passed all EOCs and/or earned credits for graduation, your student advisor (Mrs. Eldred) will be contacting you regarding the **Individual Graduation Committee** process.

What About Dual Credit Courses?

- Students enrolled in Tyler Junior College Dual Credit courses will be affected by the **college's decisions.** Information will be shared with currently-enrolled students via **TJC's website and student email.** Students should **log-in to their TJC Canvas account** or **contact their college instructor** for specific information.

I Still Have Questions. Who Do I Contact?

- As always, parents and students should reach out to teachers, counselors or principals as needed. **Email is best** as QISD facilities are closed. All staff emails are available at: www.quitmanisd.net. Click High School campus then click on the Staff link.
- For **general questions** about QISD, call or text 903.497.7323.
- For questions or troubleshooting regarding **Chromebooks or Kajeet HotSpots**, call or text 903.497.7719.
- If you have **extenuating circumstances of any kind** with regard to your assignments, internet access or **any other specific or personal considerations**, please send an email to HSOutreach@quitmanisd.net.