



BONITA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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April 10, 2020

Dear Bonita Unified Students and Parents/Guardians,

First, on behalf of the Board of Education and the entire staff of Bonita Unified School District, we want to express our continued well wishes and health for all of our students and families. In these unprecedented times, all of us are adapting to new requirements in our daily lives, in our homes, and in our community. With nine weeks left in the school year, our staff continues to adapt to this new learning environment to support our 10,000 students with remote/distance learning.

Below are some important announcements on how we are moving forward with respect to remote instruction, grading, senior activities and graduation requirements:

REMOTE INSTRUCTION

The most important factor in any learning environment is the connection between a teacher and students. Please keep the following items in mind regarding remote instruction:

- All assigned work is designed so teachers and students stay connected in helping students maintain essential skills
- Our instructional practices have adapted the curriculum to adhere to the “Safer at Home” order
- Learning from home is a different experience from learning in person
- The partnership between parents and teachers is now more important than ever

Please continue to be on the lookout for specific information/instructions from your child’s school and teachers for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year.

GRADING

Bonita Unified has developed a temporary grading policy designed to provide and incentivize students to complete assigned work during the school closure. Below you will notice specific details for elementary, middle, and high school students. Please keep in mind that there are several important factors that distinguish K-8 grading from high school. For example, students in grades 9-12 are required to earn 220 credits in order to graduate, and students’ grade point averages are used for college admissions and CIF eligibility. Accordingly, we have developed guidelines for each grade span and specific criteria for determining the conditions regarding how a high school student’s grade can improve.

Elementary Students

- The work assigned to students is designed to help them retain important grade level skills that they will need for the next grade level.
- The third trimester had just started prior to school closures. As such, there will be no official grades issued for the third trimester. Teachers will provide parents/students feedback on completed assignments to gauge skill mastery.

Middle School Students

- Grades will reflect work that was completed prior to March 13. Student grades will be posted no later than April 11 for all work completed prior to March 13. Grades can only improve and cannot go lower than the posted grade.
- Students will receive credit for the work they complete during the school closure. This credit will allow students to raise their grades. Students will not be penalized for work not completed. However, all students are strongly encouraged to complete the work to retain important skills needed for next year.

High School Students

- Grades will reflect work that was completed prior to March 13. Student grades will be posted no later than April 11 for all work completed prior to March 13. Grades can only improve and cannot go lower than the posted grade.
- All students can improve their grades by one letter grade if they submit at least 80% of their assigned work to their teachers and the work that they complete demonstrates mastery and meets teacher expectations of the assigned task. Students will not be penalized for work not completed. However, all students are strongly encouraged to complete the work to retain important skills needed for next year.

Graduating Seniors

The cancellation of end-of-year senior activities is heartbreaking. The memories built during a student's school years culminate in a ceremony that is anticipated for years, and we recognize that there may be a sense of loss for that rite of passage. Our seniors are foremost on our minds, and we will make every attempt to hold a graduation ceremony if and when it is safe to do so.

Here are some important updates for Seniors:

- There are no changes to our graduation requirements. Students will still need to have completed the required 220 credits in order to receive a high school diploma.
- Seniors still need to complete all coursework, adhering to the grading policies listed above.
- Senior projects still need to be completed. However, certain requirements have been amended to adhere to "Safer at Home" orders. Details will be forthcoming from your child's high school.

Please note, the temporary grading policy is just that, temporary. Our intent over the next nine weeks is to provide students with continuous learning opportunities, allow flexibility for students and their families, and incentivize students to complete assigned work.

Our commitment to our community is to continue to provide direction and answers to our families in a transparent manner. Please continue to check our website for updated information over the next several weeks.

On behalf of the Board of Education, I would like to thank everyone for their resiliency, cooperation, and assistance during these times. It is nothing short of amazing how we can "come together" even when we are physically separated. Together, we will continue to surmount the challenges we face.

Thank you,



Carl J. Coles
Superintendent