

Grading Plan Zoom Meeting with Parents Q & A
May 7, 2020 - 9:00 AM and 4:30 PM

Q: What does engagement mean?

A: Engagement is defined as a student's involvement/participation in the lessons and learning activities. Engagement will include any of the following, but is not necessarily limited to:

- turning in assignments,
- connecting with teachers by email, phone or video conferencing,
- participating in online class meetings,
- logging into SeeSaw or Google Classroom,
- participating in learning activities,
- reviewing recorded lessons.

Q: Are we grading both completion of assignments and engagement?

A: Yes, teachers are grading both completion of assignments and engagement.

Q How will grading be determined for the students who are doing packets and not online?

A: Grading will be handled equitably for students who are doing hard copy packets and also students who are completing work online.

Q: For Teacher's assistants at the high school, how will they be graded from here on out?

A: Grading will be based on work that the student did prior to the school closure.

Q: Does my child need to complete the hard packet and electronic work if my student has access to both?

A: No, just one or the other; students don't need to complete both.

Q: Can my student still complete late work from prior to the school closure?

A: Late work is being accepted according to the teacher's late work policy. Reaching out to the teacher will be important for that answer.

Q: Due to late assignments, my student has a poor grade for 3rd quarter. Will that grade remain on the transcript?

A: 3rd quarter grades will be positively impacted by the adjusted grading scale. Students will have the opportunity to raise their final grade through the completion of remote learning and the opportunities provided for them. For GPA purposes, quarter grades are more of a progress report and do not count; it is the semester grade that is critical and used.

Q: Will still be able to use Skyward to see grades?

A: Yes, you will be able to access Skyward to see grades.,

Q: Will there be state testing this year?

A: No, the state decided that was not in the best interest of students so there will not be testing for this particular school year.

Q: Will any of the schools have a get together at the end of the year?

A: Our schools are working on what they will be able to do according to the Governor's decrees and what they are able to do virtually. More information will be forthcoming.

Q: Has the grading scale been updated in Skyward

A: Yes.

Q: If a student has an 83 percent, will it look any different than a 93 percent or is 83 percent an A? Or, will there be A-, B+...

A. The A is four points on the GPA scale so the percentage doesn't matter; there will not be plus or minus, 83 percent would be equivalent to a regular A.

Q: For daily requirements, specifically for grades K-5, if parents aren't always there to help their kids, does work have to be completed daily? If a teacher puts something in one day and the student can't complete it on that day does it count against them or can they take the whole week to finish?

A: Work needs to be completed as students are able to complete it. Teachers are establishing due dates but in our virtual environment they need to be gracious about accepting the work students can do when they can do it.

Q: It sounds like grades for participation are being left up to the discretion of each teacher; how does that work with “do no harm?”

A: The grades will revert back to that 3rd quarter grade. Although the teachers will be scoring things as they go, and they need to do that as grades are an important way to give feedback to students and parents about how a student is doing on their assignment, as for the final grade that goes onto their transcript and is calculated into their GPA. Students have that safeguard that their grade is not going to go backwards from the 3rd quarter mark, which is based on work that was done while students were still in buildings. If it comes to an Incomplete, this decision will include team involvement – a discussion with the teacher, administrator and counselor as to whether an Incomplete is appropriate or if reverting back to that 3rd quarter grade makes more sense. This decision will be handled individually as we understand access is different and everybody has different challenges right now. We want to take all of that information into account when those decisions are made.

Q: There are some assignments from prior to March 10 that have not been graded. Is there an expectation that the teacher will be grading these or are they changed to a “no count?” How should students/parent be following up with the teacher regarding those grades prior to March 10?

A: Please email the teacher and ask about that. There will be a specific direction from that teacher.

Q: Need specificity on leadership classes requiring students to go online and making videos for classmates?

A: That would be a follow up email to the teacher. Please let the teacher or administrator know if you have any concerns about the content of the work they are being asked to complete. Contact the teacher first, then the building administrator.

Q: How will we be able to find this recording?

A: We will make sure we send out information related to the recording. Additionally, please email scsdinfo@stanwood.wednet.edu for any questions you may have. Your email will be forwarded to the appropriate person for response.

Q: How are google quizzes and tests going; my daughter had correct answers but the answers were marked wrong on the quiz because they were not exactly the same format or answer.

A: Please follow up with the teacher. This may be a technology training opportunity on creating quizzes and a way to construct them so that a word that is spelled wrong or not the exact word you are looking for yet has the same meaning is counted.

Q: We're having a hard time seeing what assignments are missing our overdue in the Google Classroom. What is the best way to see those assignments? Also, some are very old; sometimes years old.

A: Check in with the teacher. Also, anything in the stream or in posting prior to April 24 would not necessarily be something that would be graded during this time.

Q: I had an A before, now I have an F. Why?

A: Teachers may be entering zeroes on assignment due dates and that may be changing the grade in there for the 4th quarter. Refer to the 3rd quarter grade, which should be fixed and shouldn't be changing. Remember, when we do the final scoring for the transcript we will be going back to that grade (3rd quarter) and as long as there has been enough engagement the student should be receiving credit. It is possible for a student who had a B to raise it to A, for instance, with quality work.

Q: I notice when my son does his work it's not going to his teacher but another teacher at the same grade level (Cedarhome).

A: Cedarhome Elementary does a lot of collaboration among teachers. There may be one teacher handling math; another, reading, etc. They are teaming up on some of that work. Grading will be the same.

Q: Are there going to be any requirements for band? My son was originally told concerts were going to be 40% of his grade and obviously those have been cancelled.

A: The teacher would be the one to communicate with on that. It will be a matter of engagement that is set up as expectations for the next several weeks. For High School, reach out to Mr. Brodin. Teachers will be making adjustments for that.

Q: Are teachers supposed to always be assigning on Monday for the week's work? Some are coming across on Tuesday.

A: I think the idea is that they are trying not to overlap other teachers' assignments but there needs to be weekly work. In other words, certain content areas are focused on a couple different days during the week and other content areas on other days of the week. So, the drop date may vary depending on the grade level and subject area.

Q: My daughters swear they've turned in an assignment but there's no response from the teacher on Skyward. In other words, their assignment doesn't show complete on Skyward. Why is there a lag time?

A: I would reach out to the teacher; they have different forms for collecting assignments; it might be through Google Classroom or it might be through Turn It In for English, for instance. If an assignment is not turned in in the format a teacher has asked for, they might not see it. Reach out to the teacher to verify an assignment has been received and the preferred way for turning in. A tutorial will be going out to parents either today or tomorrow on how to turn in assignments and how to know they've been received. This will help with this type of issue.

Comment: As a teacher, I sometimes return an assignment with feedback that it is incomplete. Students should check to see if their teacher has returned it. For Skyward questions to principals – they are referred to the teacher.

Q: Are students that TA supposed to be doing their assignments and should teachers be contacting those students?

A: In most cases, TAs are not being asked to do anything; please email your teacher and ask them if there is anything to do; typically, our TAs are going to receive passing grades if they were already at that level on March 10.

Q: Are school districts in the state using the same grading rules or will some students have a collegiate advantage over other students?

A: Districts all had the same guidance but were able, within that guidance, to address our grading scales. Some districts went with a grade of A or Incomplete; some A or B or Incomplete; and some continued on with the A, B, C or D scale. State agencies have done a lot of outreach to higher education so when the colleges see the notation that will be on the transcript it will be a good identifier to them as to when these grades were received, and all students in the state of Washington will have that designation that grades were received during the COVID 19 pandemic.

Q: will there still be Hi Cap testing at the elementary grade level?

A: There will be Hi Cap testing but it will be in the fall.

Q: Is there a way to confirm when my child has class?

A: Depending on the age of the student, invitations to come into the google meet should be coming through either Google Classroom or SeeSaw; some teachers are also emailing parents to let them know there is a schedule. We've learned from a previous question, that some were thinking there would be class Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. The district asked high school and middle school teachers to only have one meet scheduled per week. We did not want to overwhelm families by asking these students to meet three times per week/six times per day. There may be multiple students in a household, along with juggling everything else. If your student is only meeting one day a week per class that is normal, by design. We have asked teachers to design a student engagement that is approximately one-half per day, per class and twenty minutes per day at the middle school level. Teachers do not want to use all of that time on google meet but rather have students engaged in learning opportunities.

Q: Are there any recommendations for resources for parents who want to have their student continue education during the summer?

A: We will keep IXL open throughout the summer. For those who have internet, that is a really good resource; those online resources are definitely solid resources during the summer.

Q: Is it possible to have teachers continue to post assignments to folders on the website like they did during the enrichment? It is difficult for me to navigate my students chromebook.

A: The issue with posting to the website is that all of the grade levels were teaming up to do the same thing; for example, a folder for English, Algebra, etc. Now that teachers are actually giving assignments they are expecting to collect; teachers are all doing their own; so, the number of folders will be significant, and paper packets are a little different than the online assignments. If you would like to request something like that, please email your student's teacher and ask and you may be able to receive it that way, but they will not be posted online.

Q: Will chromebooks need to be returned by the end of the school year?

A: We want students to have chromebooks through the end of the school year. At the end of June, after the school year ends, we will communicate to families on how to return chromebooks.

Q: Will summer school be available for all students?

A: We will have a credit retrieval summer school but we are not going to be able to do a summer school for all students.

Q: Options for returning packets?

A: Packets can be mailed and there are also drop boxes at the schools.

Q: Will you be using plus or minus in grading?

A: No plus or minus, just straight A, B or C.

Q: Is GPA no longer valid, just grades?

A: GPAs are valid, an A still equals 4.0; B, 3.0; C, 2.0. The percentages that go into those grades still impact the GPA, the only real difference is that we are not using plus or minus; so, we would only be using 4 (A), 3 (B), or 2 (C).

Q: Are discussions happening in a scenario that we are in a similar position this fall with distance learning?

A: Absolutely. This is one of the reasons we took another week beyond other districts to make sure we had plans in place that are built to last. We need to be prepared whichever way we go.

Q: Long term, might there be some options for kids to still be in the classroom when they are home ill?

A: We've learned so much from putting a distance learning plan together that we believe there will be those kinds of opportunities. We've seen the power of technology, and we've seen some things we need to improve on. We think the answer is "yes" and might even change the face of snow days.

Q: I'm finding not all teachers are using Google Classroom the same... some are posting assignments in Notes, some under the Assignment tab. Some math assignments don't show up on the Google Classroom at all. The more you can consolidate the posted assignments the better. We have to search sometimes for the assignments.

A: That is a great point; we would like to receive info for your situation in particular via scsdinfo@stanwood.wednet.edu to do some research – teachers are learning new platforms and we will work on this as a training issue for consistency.