

Scoring/Grading Guide - March 2020

Brewer High School

As a result of the extraordinary situation we find ourselves in, we have had to adapt how we teach and learn. Likewise, as we monitor students' progress, we need to consider how students' achievements are reflected in their year-end grade. This document outlines the process we'll use to determine year-end grades.

It's important to keep a few things in mind:

- The basic premise of our approach is to incentivize or encourage students, not penalize them for a situation beyond their control.
- There will be a pathway for nearly every student to pass and receive credit for each of his/her classes.
- Each student who was on a path to earn a diploma will have every opportunity to do so; no one will be prevented from graduating because of this situation.

The Learning

Teachers will send out work (or make it available) electronically each Monday with the expectation that students complete work by midnight the following Sunday. At least once each week, teachers will have 'office hours' when they are available to their students during their regularly scheduled blocks. Teachers will communicate these hours to their students. Students are responsible for checking their emails, Google Classrooms, or other platforms teachers establish with their students.

Grades

I. For year-long courses:

- We will determine a 'baseline' grade based on the work a student has done through Friday, March 13.
- Zeros from March 2 to March 13 that students did not have a legitimate opportunity to re-do or make up will be eliminated.
- Students whose baseline grade is passing will have an opportunity to improve on that grade, based on the work they do while we are not in regular session.
- Students whose baseline grade is failing will have an opportunity to bring that grade up to passing, based on the work they do while we are not in regular session.
- The remainder of the year (should we be out that long) will be divided into three 'mini-trimesters.' For each mini-trimester, a student who is passing *and* completes the work at a satisfactory level as determined by the teacher will earn points that are added to their baseline grade.
 1. March 30 - April 17 (1 point)
 2. April 27 - May 22 (2 points)
 3. May 26 - End of Year (3 points)

The additional points will be added to the baseline grade to determine a student's end of year grade.

- For students who have a failing baseline grade, for each *successful* mini-trimester, they will earn one-third of the points needed to bring their grade to passing (70) for the year. For example: If a student has a baseline grade of 61, for each mini-trimester, he/she will earn 3 points, in this example, for doing acceptable work as established by the teacher and pass with a 70. If they had a baseline grade of 55, they'd earn 5 points per mini-trimester.

II. For Semester-2 courses:

- These will be made pass/fail courses with the aggregate of the work from Quarter 3 and the at-home work determining whether a student earns the half-credit for that course.

Determining 'Baseline' Grades

In a typical school year, final grades for year-long courses are determined by averaging the Semester 1 grade with the Semester 2 grade. In other words, each semester is equally weighted, a 50/50 split. Under this modified grading plan, in order to determine the 'baseline grade' in each course, Semester 1 grade will be weighted at 80-percent and Semester 2 (through March 13) will be weighted at 20-percent. Students will then be able to add to their grade as outlined above.

It's About the Learning

Although we need to have a mechanism in place to determine grades, the most critical aspect of any academic plan is the actual learning that takes place. It's important for all of us to keep in mind that learning can and does take place in numerous ways and in various settings. Regardless of the 'how' and 'where' of learning, we need students to remain engaged in the process. Our intent with this plan is to encourage (incentivize) that engagement while being mindful of the different challenges we're all facing during these trying times.

