



Burbank Unified School District
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April 16, 2020

Dear Families, Students, and Employees:

A crisis can divide a community, or it can bring it together. I continue to be inspired by how our students, parents/guardians, teachers, support staff and administrators are working together during these challenging times. We will continue to learn and adapt to this new learning model for the remaining five weeks of the school year. Below are some key updates for this week:

Grades: Secondary Students **will receive a final mark of Credit or No Credit for the 20-week semester grade, instead of a letter grade.** Students must engage in Distance Learning to earn Credit for their 20-week final mark. Engaging means that the student must attempt and complete more than the majority of the assignments as assigned by the teacher in a timely manner. Students who do not engage as stated will receive No Credit for their 20-week grade. This decision included input from teachers, principals, instructional leads, District-level administration, consultation with university admissions officials, and Los Angeles County superintendents (over 68% of Los Angeles County school districts are moving to Credit/No Credit). We are thankful for our partnership with our teachers and the Memorandum of Understanding signed earlier today to memorialize the temporary shift in grading practices to complete this year.

Moving to credit/no credit grading will benefit our students **without negative consequences for students with collegiate aspirations.** Universities within California and across the country have made it clear that students will not be penalized for missing traditional standardized tests or for posting credit/no credit transcripts for this semester. One of the most clear explanations of the assurances our students should expect comes from Harvard University – their complete letter can be found [here](#). As well as California universities:

- a. [University of California \(UC\)](#)
- b. [California State University \(CSU\)](#)
- c. [Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities \(AICCU\)](#)

BUSD has created a one-semester change in practice to post accumulated credits without positively or negatively impacting grade point averages. Colleges lean heavily on an official document called the School Profile. School Profiles explain circumstances to colleges, including graduation requirements, grade point average calculations, honors courses, average SAT/ACT scores, and other elements that make schools unique. In this case, the shift to credit/no credit grading in the face of a global pandemic will be described and **accepted without penalty**. The move is temporary and will be discontinued when students and staff return to school in the fall. Elementary Trimester 3: Teachers will continue to assign and respond to student work but will not attach a letter or numerical grade to the assignments. Teachers will leave the Trimester 3

grade fields blank but will instead only use the comment field to describe the work and effort of the student during Distance Learning. Comments will return to being optional at the end of 2019-20.

Attendance: As mentioned above, grades will be determined by students successfully attempting and completing more than the majority of work assigned. Attendance is monitored by teachers and staff and they will continue to reach out if your child is not engaging in distance learning.

End of Year Activities: This week Governor Newsom said, “The prospect of mass gatherings is negligible at best until we get to herd immunity and we get to a vaccine. So large-scale events that bring in hundreds, thousands, tens of thousands of strangers ... is not in the cards” for “June, July, August.” While we still want to have in-person end of year events, we will need to wait and see when we are allowed to have those events and what the restrictions will be for our students and families. In the meantime, school sites are working on creating virtual end of year events to celebrate the accomplishments of our students. Principals will communicate the details in the upcoming weeks. This is definitely not the senior year anyone had envisioned for our students. The following article is an excellent read for students, families and staff:
<https://thriveglobal.com/stories/the-year-without-graduation/>

Family Technology Support: Families who need technology support may click on the following link: <http://burbankusd.org/Student-Parent-Tech-Support-Request>

Mental Health Resources: As a reminder, Burbank Family Service Agency (FSA) is open and accepting referrals for tele-health (therapy) sessions at 818-845-7671 or <https://familyserviceagencyofburbank.org/>. We also have a list of resources on our website <https://www.burbankusd.org/Page/2688>

By continuing to work together, we will build a stronger BUSD. The next District update will be sent **Thursday, April 23**.

Take care,



Matt Hill, Ed.D.
Superintendent