

December 1, 2017

Dear Titan Families,

It's hard to believe that the first semester is about to come to an end. We've had a great first half of the year with much success in our academics, athletics, and the arts. As we approach the end of the semester, I wanted to take a moment to share some important information to help you be positioned to assist your child do his/her best on upcoming exams.

### **Semester Exams Start December 18th – Important Information**

For our sixth-grade students, semester exams are something new, and studying for them will be important. **The first semester exam (SE1) counts for 15% of a student's overall Semester 1 grade (S1), which is the equivalent of 2.5 weeks of work;** each nine-week grade (T1 and T2) count 42.5%, respectively. By the time that you read this message, your child should have received all his/her semester exam reviews.

The [semester exam schedule](#) may be found on our campus webpage. **Please note that no exams may be taken early.** Opportunities to take missed exams occur daily after school in Room 104 starting Monday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, and **all exams must be made up by Friday, January 19<sup>th</sup>.** Please make the necessary arrangements for a snack and for transportation on the day(s) your child takes his/her make-up exam(s). Students will be given the same amount of time to take each make-up exam as was originally scheduled during semester exam week, which is approximately 2 hours (4:20-6:20). **We will also have opportunities for your child to make up his/her exams on Friday, January 5<sup>th</sup> (a teacher work day).** We will start exams at 8:00 AM, 10:00 AM, and 1:00 PM. Please check in at the front office, and then report to the counseling suite. Please arrive 15 minutes ahead of your desired start time.

### **Early Release Day Expectations**

Please also note that on our **early release days of Wednesday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, and Thursday, December 21<sup>st</sup>,** our day will end at **1:25 PM.** Additionally, we have set aside 30 minutes for all students to eat lunch from 10:50-11:20 AM on both of those days. What is different, though, is that students will have **two options for lunch**—bring lunch from home or order a sack lunch from the cafeteria. Students will order their lunches for Wednesday and Thursday during their classes on Tuesday to give the cafeteria staff ample time to plan. On Wednesday and Thursday students will eat their lunch in their classrooms after each day's first exam before proceeding to their next test. Please note that due to exams, we will be unable to deliver lunches brought during the day by parents. Furthermore, students are reminded to stay off other FBISD property, such as elementary schools after we dismiss; these schools are still in session until their regular dismissal time. Also, if you have older children who are SLMS alumni, we request that they not come up to the school on their early release days, as well. Our staff will be engaged with grading semester exams, inputting grades in to Skyward, and preparing for checkout responsibilities after school on these early release days.

Last, but also important, on our **early release days (December 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>),** students will not be visiting their lockers. **Therefore, no backpacks or string bags will be allowed at school on these early release days.** Students may only bring **pencils, a book to read, and a lunch from home** (if not ordering a sack lunch from

Fort Bend Independent School District

the cafeteria). Girls may bring a small purse, if needed. Dress code will still be in effect on early release days and on all exam days. Therefore, no blankets, pillows, pajamas, slippers, hats, etc., will be permitted on these days, just as they are not permitted on regular school days.

### **Student Organizations**

As we close out the first semester and start the second semester (on January 8<sup>th</sup>), please consider having your child engage further with school by joining one of our great clubs; the full list may be found on our [clubs and organizations webpage](#).

### **Career Day Volunteers Still Needed**

We are also still looking for parent volunteer assistance through our PTO and our VIPS program. Career Day for our 8<sup>th</sup> graders is coming up on **Friday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>**, and we still need guest speakers and volunteers for the day. Please contact Melissa Snyder, PTO president and Career Day parent volunteer, at [careerday2018@gmail.com](mailto:careerday2018@gmail.com) if you are able to help volunteer or Nafecia Brinson, counselor, at [Nafecia.Brinson@fortbendisd.com](mailto:Nafecia.Brinson@fortbendisd.com) if you are interested in being a guest speaker/presenter for Career Day. You may also [download this flier](#) for additional Career Day information. **Sixth and seventh grade parents are urged to get involved, as well, as we seek to make this a better event year after year.**

### **Keeping Up With SLMS—Electronic Report Cards and Progress Reports**

Be sure follow us on Twitter ([@SugarLandMS](https://twitter.com/SugarLandMS)), keep up with your child's grades, etc., on Skyward Family Access (instructions may be found on our campus webpage), and monitor our campus webpage ([www.fortbendisd.com/slms](http://www.fortbendisd.com/slms)) and the PTO website ([www.slmspto.org](http://www.slmspto.org)) regularly. Remember that we will be switching to all-electronic progress report and report cards starting with the first progress report of the second semester; you must have access to Skyward Family Access to view these. Contact Tandi Phillips, data entry clerk at SLMS at (281) 634-3118 or by email at [tandi.phillips@fortbendisd.com](mailto:tandi.phillips@fortbendisd.com) to get signed up.

I wish you and your family the best during the Winter Break. Please feel free to reach out to me at [keith.fickel@fortbendisd.com](mailto:keith.fickel@fortbendisd.com) if needed. We have had a great first semester, and I know that the second semester will be a great one, too!

Kindest regards,

Keith Fickel, Principal  
Sugar Land Middle School