

December 11, 2021

Dear Titan Families,

It is hard to believe that the first semester will be coming to an end this week. We have had a great first half of the year with much success in our academics, athletics, and the arts, as well as in academic and social-emotional growth. As we approach the end of the semester, I wanted to take a moment to share some important information to help you and your child understand how the semester will end.

End of Semester Information

Students taking courses at SLMS for high school credit or who are enrolled in a single-semester course will have a cumulative semester exam administered this upcoming week (see schedule linked below). For high school credit courses, this grade (called SE1 in Skyward) will count for 15% of your child's overall semester average, and for middle school single-semester courses, their assessment grade will be a fourth major grade for T2 (Term 2). Students who miss these assessments must make them up by January 21, 2022. A "0" (zero) will be placed in the gradebook as a placeholder until these assessments are made up. The [semester end schedule](#) may be found on our campus webpage. Please note that for students who are taking exams this semester, **no exams may be taken early.**

Important Note: While all other classes will not have a cumulative exam in December, *they will have one in May that will count as a fourth major grade for T4.* For December, though, instruction will continue through this upcoming week. Teachers will also be looking ahead to the second semester, and in many cases pre-assessing what students already know about upcoming units so they may plan their instruction more effectively when the second semester begins on January 5. Therefore, attendance is crucial this week.

Early Release Day Expectations

Please also note that on our **early release days** of **Thursday, December 16, and Friday, December 17**, 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 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 wishing to order a sack lunch for the early release days will do so early this week. On these early release days, students will eat their lunch in their classrooms, as noted in the schedule linked above. **Please note that due to the special lunch schedule on our early release days, 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 and even school playgrounds, after we dismiss. 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 tasks related to the end of the semester and preparing for checkout responsibilities after school on these early release days.

What Do I Bring to School on the Early Release Days (Thu/Fri)?

No backpacks or string bags will be allowed at school on early release days. Students may only bring **pencils or a pencil bag, a book to read, and a lunch from home** (if not ordering a

sack lunch from the cafeteria). Girls may bring a **small** purse, if needed. Students enrolled in Algebra I will need to bring their personal device for their semester exam (Mr. Person will share expectations with students during class this week). Therefore, a case or a protective bag for personal laptops will be permitted on the early release days. Musical instruments may be needed, as well, if your child's teacher instructs them to bring them to school on the early release days.

What is the Dress Code for the Last Week of the Semester?

Dress code will still be in effect on early release days and on all exam days (Pajama Day is on the last day of the semester but be sure to follow the guidelines communicated in our weekly Titan News). No blankets, pillows, pajamas (except for Friday, Dec. 17, PJ's are okay), slippers, hats, etc., will be permitted on these days, just as they are not permitted on regular school days.

Are You Moving During the Break?

If you are planning to move during the break and your child will no longer attend Sugar Land MS for the next semester, please come by the school to fill out an *Intent to Withdraw* form. This form needs to be processed before the semester ends. The last day to come in and fill out the form will be December 17. Contact Mrs. Phillips at (281) 634-3118 if you have questions. Thank you in advance for your help, and we wish you the best!

Keeping Up With SLMS

Be sure follow us on Twitter ([@SLMSTitans](https://twitter.com/SLMSTitans)), keep up with your child's grades, etc., on Skyward Family Access (instructions may be found on our campus webpage), see your child's work in progress through our blended learning platform, Schoology (instructions on campus webpage), and monitor our campus webpage (www.fortbendisd.com/slms) and the PTO website (www.slmspto.org) regularly.

I and the entire SLMS faculty and staff wish you and your family the best during the Winter Break. We have had a great first semester, and I know that the second semester will be a great one, too! We look forward to your child's safe return to school when the second semester begins on Wednesday, January 5, at 8:55 AM!

Kindest regards,

Keith Fickel, Principal
Sugar Land Middle School