

November 2019

Hello Longhorn Families,

It is hard to believe that Thanksgiving is around the corner and the first semester is coming to an end soon. 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, behavioral and social 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**

Due to board-approved changes to district grading policy, semester exams look much different this year for middle school students. Essentially, it looks like this:

Students taking courses at BMS for high school credit or who are enrolled in a single-semester course will have a cumulative semester exam administered over a two-day period. On Monday, December 16 students will take Part A of the final in their odd numbered class periods (1, 3, 5, 7). On Tuesday, December 17, students will take Part A of the final exam in their even numbered class periods (2, 4, 6). Part B will be given on Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup> in odd numbered classes and on Thursday, December 19<sup>th</sup> in even numbered classes. Though the exam is given over a two-day period, it is a single grade. 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, the grade will be a fourth major grade for T2 (Term 2). Students need to be present for both days.

The courses where students will have a semester exam include the following.

#### **Single Semester Courses (exams in December and May)**

- PE 7, Kickstart 7, and Health 7

#### **High School Credit Courses (exam in December and another in May)**

- Algebra I
- Principles of Human Services
- Touch Data Systems (Coding and Keyboarding)
- Spanish I
- Spanish IA
- Spanish IB
- Spanish for Spanish Speakers

**Important Note:** While all other classes will not have a cumulative exam in December, *they will have one in May*. For December, though, instruction will continue through the four-day week that ends the semester. 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. Therefore, attendance is crucial.

The semester end schedule may be found on our campus webpage and on Schoology. Please note that for students who are taking exams this semester, **no exams may be taken early**.

### **Early Release Day Expectations**

Please also note that on our **early release days** of **Wednesday, December 18**, and **Thursday, December 19**, our day will end at **1:25 PM**. On the early release days, students will have a 30 minute lunch and they will eat in their last class of the day. For these days, students will need a sack lunch. Students can bring a sack lunch from home or order a sack lunch from the cafeteria. **Please note that due to the special lunch schedule on our early release days, we will be unable to deliver lunches brought by parents.**

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.

### **Are You Moving During the Break?**

If you are planning to move during the break and your child will no longer attend Baines MS for the next semester, please come by the school to fill out an *Intent to Withdraw* form with Ms. Ojeda. This form needs to be processed before the semester ends. The last day to come in and fill out the form will be December 19. Thank you in advance for your help, and we wish you the best!

As always thank you for your support of your child and of Baines Middle School.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving break.

All my best,

J. J. Roberts