

Date: April 29, 2020

RE: Armstrong Middle School Semester 2 Grading Explanation

Dear AMS Families,

It's exciting to see more and more students accessing and completing 4th marking period assignments in Google Classroom or completing weekly packets. It's important that our middle school students keep their minds sharp and prepare for success in class next year by continuing to complete this year's curriculum. We are so proud of the hard work that students are doing in their Google Classrooms. I know it brings some challenges, but our students are building, and showing, a lot of character in tackling the task. They should feel really good about their accomplishments.

We have had several questions about 4th marking grades and how they will impact the semester grade. Students can only improve their overall second semester grade by continuing to complete and submit assignments for the 4th marking period. In order for the fourth marking period grade to impact the semester 2 grade, students must complete 75% of the 4th marking period class assignments. For example, if a class has 24 assignments for the whole 4th marking period, 18 of those assignments must be graded to qualify for this improvement clause.

For students who complete 75% of the 4th marking period assignments and earn a 4th marking period grade that is better than their 3rd marking grade, the 3rd and 4th marking period grades will be averaged to calculate the Semester 2 grade. If a student earns a fourth marking period grade that is lower than their 3rd marking period grade, or didn't do 75% of the work assigned, the 3rd marking period grade will be used for the semester 2 grade.

If the student's 3rd marking period grade was lower than 50% but the 4th marking period grade is 70% or higher (with at least 75% of the work completed), the 3rd marking period grade will be increased to a 50% when averaged with the 4th marking period grade to calculate the Semester 2 grade. This allows students the opportunity to earn a passing grade for Semester 2 by demonstrating significant improvement.

We know that distance learning during a national crisis is difficult for teachers, parents and students and we expect that students and families will have questions. Staying connected is key for student success. Students can connect with their teachers through Google Classroom and also through email. Our teachers are available during the typical school hours to respond to questions and concerns. Parents may check Parentvue on Mondays for messages from teachers and look at students' grades. Teachers are updating grades weekly. For technology device questions, our tech team can be contacted by email at: kearsleytechnologystaff@kearsleyschools.org. And if you have any questions about the grading procedures for semester 2, please contact me or Mrs. Oetting. Stay home, stay safe and know that we are here to help,

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