April 20, 2020

Grading Procedures: An Update from Principal Stewart

Dear Parents and Students,

I'm writing to clarify grading procedures and student expectations for the Cycle 6 grading cycle. If there is confusion as to whether students are required to keep working, the answer is, yes! Our teachers are moving forward with teaching and learning through June 1st. The concern from teachers has been students operating on an assumption that assignments are "excused" when they are not.

HISD policy requires the following for Cycle 6:

- Teachers will enter numeric grades into GradeSpeed for assignments submitted, and a zero for unsubmitted grades.
- Final exams have been waived for the spring semester, and academic assignments will be weighted evenly.
- The average of Cycle 6 will be posted on the student report card. If there are no grades, a zero will be posted. After grades have been posted, the system will determine whether Cycle 6 will be calculated with the semester grade.

A student who makes a choice to opt out of instruction during cycle 6, is not free of the consequences of such a decision. The cognitive regression associated with 7-10 weeks of missed instruction, not including summer, far outweighs the potential impact on a student's grade. Our teachers and students (85% of our student body) are moving forward with the state curriculum and objectives needed for success in the next sequence of language, writing, math, science, social studies and career-based courses.

As a mom, I understand the extra effort needed. The message to send to our kids is "Don't give up what you want *most in life*, for something you want right now." We are making every effort to preserve an upward trajectory of advanced level course options for your child in the presence of a pandemic. We need and rely on our parents and families to help us thwart readiness concerns which may impact enrollment and retention in rigorous courses such as PreAP, AP, Dual-Credit, honors, industrycertification exams, not to mention college entrance exams.

We've created numerous structures for supporting our students academically and to assist students individ-

ually with obstacles be it tutorials, emotional stress, technology issues, or illness. Our teachers are expected to personally deliver live/recorded instruction and to provide multiple avenues for students to interact directly with their teachers. If you are needing support, please contact your child's deans and teachers as soon as possible so that we can work together to resolve it.

The silver lining of this crisis is a pretty amazing opportunity for kids and teachers alike. The pressure of STAAR and final exams is gone, and suddenly opens up two more weeks of instruction! Please send us your scholars. Our teachers are looking for every opportunity to incentivize student engagement, discussion and creativity, so seize the day! I started my last article with "We are not only in this together, we need each other!" The teacher-student relationis at the core of Westside's culture and mission. When students show up for Westside @ HOME, it is the simplest, but most incredible way to honor the relationships, trust and sacrifices teachers making to positively impact the lives of children.

Principal Peggi Stewart

Page 2 Wolf eNews

Westside @ HOME

Normal Weekly Schedule

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
	Periods 1,3,5,7 ONLY Periods 1,3,7 accidence work date on Trumbalays		Periods 2,4,6 ONLY Periods 24,5 accidence work doesn't brookly s		Periods 1-7 Student interventions Differentiated Support
2.00	Teacher-Directed Instruction Instructional Process Instructional Process Teacher-Student Engagement (Live or Pre-recorded Lessons)	Supplemental Teacher Directed Instruction Independent Student Practice Performance Teak Completion Progress Manitaring	Teacher-Directed Instruction Intra to Learning Objective Instructional Process Tracher-Student Engagement (Live or Pre-econded Lessons)	Supplemental Teacher Directed Instruction Independent Studient Practice Parfermence Task Completion Progress Manitoring	Stud ent Supports
	Per 1- 9:30-10:30	Per 1- 9:30-10:30	Per 2- 9:30 - 10:30	Per 2- 9:30 - 10:30	Special Populations: Co-Teach Support and Collaboration
	Per 3- 11:00-12:00	Per 3- 11:00-12:00	Per 4- 11:00-12:00	Per 4- 11:00-12:00	Social Emotional Referral/Support
	Lessons recorded & saved for student viewing- anytime.	More student-teacher interaction on this day	Lessons recorded & saved for student viewing- anytime.	More student-teacher interaction on this day	Yeacher Supports PO/Training Peer Support Not work; Grading Procise
ï	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH
	Per 5- 1:00- 2:00 Per 7- 2:00- 3:00	Per 5- 1:00- 2:00 Per 7- 2:00- 3:00	Per 6- 1:00 - 2:00	Per 6- 1:00 - 2:00	TEACHER MEETING
***	Troubleshooting/ Parent- Student Contact/Dean Referral	Troubleshooting/ Parent- Student Contact/Dean Referral	2:00 PM on WED & THURS TEACHER MEETINGS/ TECH THAINING AND/OR SUPPORT UPON REQUEST		Teacher Lesson Plans posts for following week.

Daily
Classes
at a
Glance
Thru
May 8

Monday, 4/6	Tuesday, 4/7	Wednesday, 4/8	Thursday, 4/9	Friday, 4/10
1,3.5.7	1,3,5,7	2,4,6	2,4,6 (LAST DAY CYCLE 5)	Good Friday Holiday
Monday, 4/13	Tuesday, 4/14	Wednesday, 4/15	Thursday, 4/16	Friday, 4/17
1,3.5.7 (FIRST DAY CYCLE 6)	1,3.5.7	2,4,6	2,4,6	Pds 1-7 Flexible Supports
Monday, 4/20	Tuesday, 4/21	Wednesday, 4/22	Thursday, 4/23	Friday, 4/24
1,3.5.7	1,3.5.7	2,4,6	2,4,6	Pds 1-7 Flexible Supports
Monday, 4/27	Tuesday, 4/28	Wednesday, 4/29	Thursday, 4/30	Friday, 5/1
1,3.5.7	1,3.5.7	2,4,6	2,4,6	Pds 1-7 Flexible Supports
Monday, 5/4	Tuesday, 5/5	Wednesday, 5/6	Thursday, 5/7	Friday, 5/8
1,3.5.7	1,3.5.7	2,4,6	2,4,6	Pds 1-7 Flexible Supports

Westside @ HOME

What are Westside Students Saying?

We surveyed the students and they let us know some of their thoughts on Westside @ HOME. We asked them what they like and how we can improve. Here is a sampling of what they said:

I like seeing my teachers and classmates; being able to connect with my team and my coaches.

I enjoy that I can attend classes even if I am late to them and that if I cannot attend a class there is a recording which I can refer to.

I definitely think that they should reduce the amount of assignments because this makes the distance learning more like a tedious process than a learning process. They should use more interactive tools like nearpod to make classes a little more engaging.

I as a student don't get as stressed, and I also like seeing my teachers and friends online.

I've enjoyed the simplicity of it. i can receive an assignment, turn it in, and the whole process is very smooth and it doesn't stress me out.

Same or less work so I have more time to read and write some poems on my own.

Daily Student Check-In

Parents: Please remind your students to participate in the DAILY STUDENT CHECK-IN!

The video chat makes it feel as if we are still at school, love it.

Having more time to do homework, teachers explaining the material

Seeing my teachers:) The fact that I still get the exact learning from the one I got at school. I have a job, but I don't have to miss out.

Making a group chat for students so that they can ask questions and help each other.

It's also a good thing that she put all the plans in order on the HUB so we won't be confused on what we need to do.

I enjoy the pile of work :,)

Edpuzzle helps me understand what he taught.

I can take my time and learn stuff on my own. I don't have to rush through questions.

I like how easy it is to get into contact with my teachers when needed.

Watch for more responses next week!

Cycle 5 REPORT CARDS

Available Now

on
GradeSpeed/
Parent Student Connect

Click <u>here</u> to register or sign in!

Page 4 Wolf eNews

June SAT Canceled



The College Board recently announced the June SAT Test is canceled, in alignment with public health guidelines. At this time, the College Board plans to offer the SAT monthly beginning in August through the end of 2020. Expanded capacity is expected in an effort to accommodate as many students as possible. Registration for these future testing dates will begin in May. For more information, refer to the College Board website:

https://pages.collegeboard.org/natural-disasters

US Marine Band Virtually Visits Wolf Band Class

Westside Band students were honored to have two musicians from "The President's Own" United States Marine Band visit virtual band class last week. The VIP quests shared their bios and experiences, performed a private concert, and answered students' questions. The Directors and Band students alike were impressed and grateful for the unique opportunity. Student Dylan Babb shared, "As musicians, our escape is the practicing, listening and enjoyment of music. While the world is very uncertain and frightening, it can be difficult for musicians to find this escape. However, the opportunity to listen to and speak with the President's own musicians gave us an experience we missed due to not going to UIL. This was truly a worthwhile experience."





Food Distribution Sites Near Westside This Week



HISD in partnership with Houston Food Bank will continue Food Distribution services at HISD campuses this week. Click here for all the details. Please note, two of the sites planned for this week are in the Westside area:

Tuesday April 21 at 3 PM Paul Revere Middle School 10502 Briar Forest Drive

Thursday April 23 at 3 PM Ashford Elementary School 1815 Shannon Valley Drive

Westside Alum is Fort Bend Teacher of the Year

Congratulations to Kelly Stavinoha, Westside Class of 2004, on being awarded Elementary Teacher of the Year by the Fort Bend Independent School District. We are proud of our Wolf!

Kelly is a STEM teacher at his school, Madden Elementary. Apparently, the apple does not fall far from the tree; his mom, Colleen Stavinoha, is a beloved teacher here at Westside. Back in August of 2000, when Westside opened its doors, Kelly entered as a Freshman and Colleen joined the inaugural staff. He graduated in 2004 as a member of the first class to spend all 4-years at Westside. Colleen is still here, celebrating her 20th year at Westside.

Congrats again to Kelly Stavinoha! We share his mom's pride and joy for our Westside Wolf.



Westside High School Home of the Wolves

Page 6 Wolf eNews

Shout Outs

What would we do without our PTO?

PTO came through during our time of need and funded the repair of five broken classroom windows!

PTO



Vandals

SHOUT

OUT!

Thank you, PTO, for always being there for our school!

THANK-YOU! Westside

Watch Crew



30
Volunteer
Staff Members
& Spouses

Doing Drive-Bys & Keeping a Careful Watch Over Our Campus!

Ms. Kabatsky-COLOR GUARD

Ms. Vazquez-CHEER

Ms. Daniel-INERTIA DANCE COMPANY

Ms. Emert-PRIDE DANCE COMPANY

For coordinating virtual try-outs for the ease and convenience of our Wolves!

Yes, We Are Going to Have a 2020 YEARBOOK!

A Message from Ms. Roberts, Yearbook Teacher

The 2020 Westside Canidae will be published and distributed, hopefully sooner rather than later. At this time the Balfour printing plant, where our books are published, is working on a very limited basis. Hopefully they will be back up and at full capacity by the end of the week. Our original distribution was scheduled for May 18. That for sure will change. Once we get a completion date, the next step is determining when and how books can be delivered to the school. When that is decided, we will blast out distribution dates and times for you to pick up your Yearbook. We still have a few books for sale. You can order your piece of Westside history at www.Balfour.com. Books are \$85. If you have questions, please email srobert2@houstonisd.org







Seeking Technical Volunteers for Microsoft Partnership

We need your help to empower the next generation of Tech Leaders from Westside High School! Westside is partnering with Microsoft Philanthropies TEALS (Technology Educa-



tion and Literacy in Schools) for the 2020-2021 school year and we need technical volunteers from our community. TEALS pairs up passionate volunteers from the technology industry with our teachers to team-teach computer science.

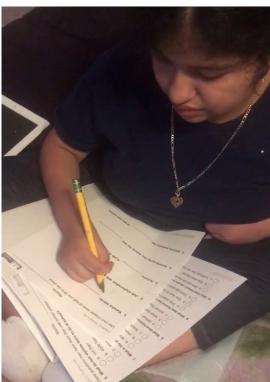
If you work in tech and would be interested in more information about our new program, please contact our computer science teacher, Mrs. Willett, at margaret.willett@houstonisd.org.

With your help, we can bring computer science to a broader and more diverse pool of students at Westside. For more information or to apply to volunteer at Westside, go to https://microsoft.com/TEALS.

Page 8 Wolf eNews

The New Way We Do School











Just for Seniors

\$500 Challenge Scholarship

Sponsored by Westside Alumni & Friends

Awarded to 2 graduating seniors who have shown perseverance to overcome an obstacle in pursuit of their education.

Click <u>here</u> to apply! Deadline May 1st

PTO Spirit Scholarships

Parents: did you join PTO by January 15th? Your senior student is eligible to apply for \$1000 WHS PTO Spirit Scholarship.

If you have not received an email with links to the 2020 Scholarship application, please contact Mrs. Turner or Mrs. Maguire from the College Center.

Click <u>here</u> for application! Deadline: May 1st



Do you need support figuring out your next steps after high school such as:

- -Applying to 2 year college, 4 year college, certification program, etc.
- -Completing your enrollment steps if you have already applied to college/certification program and have been accepted
- -Filling out the financial aid application, understanding your award letter, submitting your verification documents, etc.

If so, OneGoal, HISD's college access partner is offering all seniors FREE support right now through pre-recorded "how to" videos, live webinars, and one-on-one appointments to help you complete your college/post-secondary enrollment process successfully.

CLICK THIS LINK TO LEARN MORE AND SIGN UP:

https://sites.google.com/a/onegoalgraduation.org/ co 2020 collegeenrollmentresources/



In light of the current social distancing restrictions due to COVID-19, the Houston Independent School District is exploring alternative plans for Spring 2020 graduation ceremonies, should that need arise. As a graduating senior or parent of a graduating senior, we would like your input.

Please complete the survey below to provide your feedback on a virtual, postponed or alternate graduation ceremony plan:

Class of 2020 Graduation Survey



Page 10 Wolf eNews

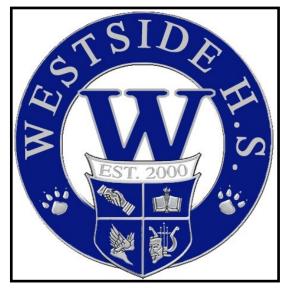
Announcements



Announcements







HSD Renzuli Learning

Gifted & Talented Resources for Parents and Students Click <u>here</u> for details! Webinars ~ Videos ~ And More Page 12 Wolf eNews

Announcements

Wolves Helping Wolves

SOME OF OUR FAMILIES
ARE IN NEED

Make a donation toward
GROCERY GIFT CARDS

Scan or Click HERE

Westside PTO







Announcements

Westside College Center

One-on-One

Virtual College Advising Appointment

Juniors and seniors! Set up individual virtual advising appointments via Microsoft Bookings. To schedule an appointment, click here:

WHS College Center Appointments

Rice Elite Camp

Application is open! Click here!

WHAT IS RICE ELITE CAMP?

Are you prepared to lead the future of engineering, technology, and an emerging global high-tech society?



Uniquely focused on preparing young people to be tomorrow's leaders in technology & engineering

Engage in rigorous STEM activities and learn to excel in team environments.

Premier pre-college engineering summer program for high school students

Learn about engineering at one of the nation's top institutions.

Created and taught by faculty from Rice University & the Rice Center for Engineering Leadership (RCEL) Reinforce engineering leadership while applying the engineering design process to solve real-world nowblems.



Four Sessions at Rice University

Rice ELITE Camp will host four identical sessions during summer 2020:

Session 1: June 1 - 5 Session 2: June 8 - 12 Session 3: June 15 - 19 Session 4: June 22 - 26

Camp sessions run 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Applicants will be able to select their session preference on the camp application.

Session Tuition: \$1,500

Rice ELITE Camp - COVID-19 Statement: As we at Rice ELITE Camp continue to watch the situation and response to the COVID-19 pandemic, we continue to prepare for all sessions of the Rice ELITE Camp to take place as scheduled in the month of June. Rice ELITE Camp sessions are small (less than 30 people), with participants often breaking up into teams of 4-6 students. This is a constantly changing situation, and Rice ELITE Camp is closely monitoring the news and will follow all guidelines set by the CDC and Rice University, as we get closer to the first day of camp. Should it be determined that we must cancel Rice ELITE Camp 2020, all registered students will receive full refunds. If you have any questions, please contact <u>Amanda Prestia</u>.

FREE E-BOOKS **Destiny Discover**

- 1. Log into the Hub and go to Digital Resources
- 2. Scroll to Library References and click on Destiny
- 3. Click on Westside High School
- 4. This will take you into the Destiny Program.

Watch this video to learn how to find, check out and open books:

https://www.follettcommunity.com/s/article/ Searching-for-and-Accessing-eBooks-vid



Page 14 Wolf eNews

Resources You May Need



EMAIL YOUR NAME AND ID NUMBER ONLY

One of us (Ms. McIntosh or Ms. Lumpkin) will create an appointment with you. Check your notification via school email within 24 hours.

Email:

ciera.mcintosh@houstonisd.org

Email:

ebony.lumpkin@houstonisd.org

HISD houston to housto

Food Distribution Sites
Week of April 20
Click here for Details

Westside Student Support Center

- Attendance Appeals
 - Absences
- Emotional Support

Monday—Friday 9-12 & 1-3:15

cbyrd@houstonisd.org

aaren.scott@houstonisd.org



Westside students in need of assistance with groceries may contact a staff member below

to request a

\$25 grocery store gift card:

Ms. McIntosh:

Ciera.McIntosh@houstonisd.org

Ms. Lumpkin:

Ebony.Lumpkin@houstonisd.org

Dean Edith Gozalez:

EGonza15@houstonisd.org

Ms. Byrd-Williams:

cbyrd@houstonisd.org

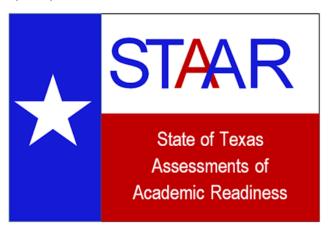
Mr. Scott:

Aaren.Scott@houstonisd.org

Testing Updates

STAAR Testing Cancelled

Due to the impact of Covid-19, STAAR testing is cancelled for the remainder of the school year. This includes all STAAR Assessments and EOC (End of Course) Assessments. Click here for the announcement released by the Texas Education Agency (TEA).



Attention Juniors! School Day SAT Postponed

HISD has announced that the administration of the SAT School Day test planned for April 28, 2020 is rescheduled for October 14, 2020. Our class of current juniors will sit for the test in October when they are seniors.

It is important to note, juniors are advised to sign up for the June or August 2020 SAT if they wish to meet early action/early decision college application deadlines for Fall of 2021 admissions.



TEST UPDATES & STUDENT RESOURCES

Click here:

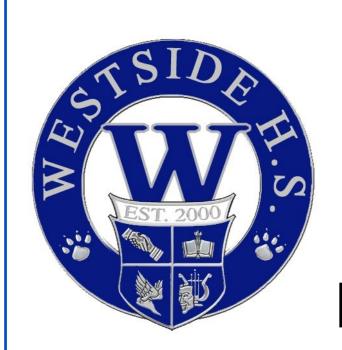
http://www.act.org/



Click Here:

https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/about-ap/news-changes/coronavirus-update





Celebrating 20 Years Of Excellence Est. 2000

Quick Links

Submit stories and photos for eNews:

barbara.nassab@houstonisd.org

Register for Parent Student Connect/

GradeSpeed:

https://www.houstonisd.org/Page/42143

Subscribe to receive *eNews* by email:

https://mailman.listserve.com/listmanager/listinfo/whscommunity

School Pay:

https://www.schoolpay.com/

School Web Address:

https://www.houstonisd.org/westsidehs

HISD Web Address:

https://www.houstonisd.org