

Frequently Asked Questions

May 1 BSD Families Forum

Grading:

What is the purpose of A (proficient) and I (incomplete) grading for high school students? Why are you not doing pass/fail?

In normal times, there are a larger number of assignments and assessments to result in traditional grades. That is not possible at this time, so the grading plan is intended to provide all students with feedback on their continuous learning while not penalizing any student during remote learning. The State does not allow proficient/fail or credit/no credit.

How are teachers grading students?

Educators will continue to enter scores as they normally have. This information will be helpful in determining if students need additional support. Educators will continue to provide students feedback in their learning. The goal is so students know how well they are demonstrating their proficiency and understanding of essential skills and concepts.

What does a student need to do to earn an A? Is participation enough?

A student will earn an “A” designation for engaging in the learning and showing adequate proficiency in the essential key skills that have been identified from now until the end of the year

How is proficiency being determined for elementary and middle school students?

We have identified essential skills for each course and grade level and teachers will be assessing students on those skills.

How are middle school classes taken for high school credit being graded?

They will be graded the same way as any credit-bearing course, using the A (proficient) and I (incomplete) grading approach.

How will finals be handled at the high school level?

Finals are determined by individual teachers. Finals will continue to be at teacher discretion, which is the same as before remote learning.

Teachers will continue to use their own judgement about finals. We will continue with the same schedule throughout the remainder of the year. There will not be a finals schedule.

How will student GPAs be calculated?

For credit bearing courses, an “A” will count as any “A” (4 points). “I” will not be calculated into the GPA. This is a “no harm” plan.

Remote Learning Plan:

How are you ensuring that students are prepared to be on grade-level next year?

We have identified the essential skills for each course and grade level that teachers will teach from now until the end of the year so it will be clear to students the expectations for each course.

What is your plan for supporting students who are behind at the end of the school year?

This is always a concern for us and particularly this year, when we don’t have access to our students in the same way we have in the past.

Each course and subject has a set of learning standards or objectives that are established for the entire course for the year. We have narrowed the standards to essential learning content and skills for the remainder of the year. This approach ensures that students have the core, prioritized learning essentials in preparation for the next grade level. We are currently working on plans for re-entry in the fall to include a period of review and assessing where students are with their learning.

How are you ensuring consistency across schools with regard to attendance?

We are not taking attendance in the traditional sense. The purpose of attendance at this time is to ensure students are engaging in the learning. Students might be accessing the learning at different times during the day and week. We can track when students engage and we are only marking their attendance weekly.

When will students have an opportunity to make up the work that was skipped or missed during remote learning?

For any student receiving an “I” for incomplete this semester, they will have planned developed with their teacher to complete work. This can take place over the summer and through the first semester of next year.

How is the district supporting parents to support student learning at home?

We have some resources available on the BSD website that lists the essential learning skills and in the technology help section. We've heard some feedback that we need to make this easier to access and to include support on how to find resources and how to utilize the many online platforms students are navigating.

Also, can we communicate in a way that will build better understanding of how to access learning materials?

We have a communication coming out to families next week with explicit directions on how to access the essential learning materials.

Summer School:

What is the plan for summer school (accelerated math for 6th graders, credit recovery, childcare, etc.)?

We have plans for summer school which are based on several scenarios. The scenarios are dependent on what the governor guides through his stay home, stay safe order. We will be sharing that information as soon as possible.

Student Well-Being:

How are you supporting students to connect with their peers and teachers outside of instruction?

Students celebrate and engage in key milestones that provide closure and preparedness for the next level.

Students engage and connect regularly with peers and educators, including coaches and advisors

Students experience joy while in the remote learning environment

Each school has a plan for non-academic activities to connect staff and students. Examples from school include virtual open gyms and recesses, book clubs, assemblies.

How are you supporting students social/emotional health?

This is a key area of focus. We are tracking all students to ensure they are invited to non-academic remote opportunities for connections with peers and educators. These

include some of the opportunities noted above. We have also provided multiple resources to educators to use in their academic session to enhance connections based upon our Social Emotional Learning (SEL) curriculum and the Washington State SEL standards and national SEL networks.

Senior / End of the Year Events:

What is our plan for graduation for seniors?

Every high school is working with senior student leadership to plan and think about what all of the possibilities are.

What about 8th grade or 5th grade graduation?

We are currently working with schools to create meaningful transitions.

Expectations for Teachers:

Who should I contact if my teacher is not checking in, sharing assignments, or collecting assignments?

Parents should first contact the teacher. If they do not believe they have received a response, they should communicate directly with the principal.

Who should I contact if I've reached out to a counselor and haven't heard back?

If you do not receive a response from the counselor, I would encourage a second attempt. Also, we are encouraging the use of email as the primary form of contact. Should you not get a response, you are encouraged to contact the principal of the school.

Why aren't teachers delivering instruction online?

Remote learning has changed how we deliver education for all of us. Teachers are delivering instruction, but they may be doing this in different ways. In our work with our teachers' association, Bellevue Education Association (BEA), we have outlined expectations from our professional educators. If you have concerns, please speak directly with the teacher, and follow up with the principal as needed.

How are you ensuring consistency in online learning and consistency in communication?

By creating a Memorandum of Understanding with our association (BEA), we have set the professional expectations of our educators. Schedules create consistency, along with

school-based communication plans. We also understand the importance of flexibility, for educators to be able to meet the various needs of our students.

Returning / Retrieving Items:

How can students return items, like laptops, that belong to the district?

We are putting together a schedule that will have students return laptops and other items to the district. You should expect to return materials and computers sometime during the last week of school which is the week of June 15th.

Construction:

Will the opening of the new Highland be delayed? How has construction of the school been impacted?

Construction has continued at Highland Middle School, and the school will open as planned this coming fall.

Enrollment:

How should students enroll in choice schools?

We did not have an online process prior to this crisis. We needed to create one, which we have. We are piloting it for fourth quarter enrollment. Once we know that the new system works, we will reach out to families.

Student Needs:

Will meals continue to be provided over the summer?

We always have a summer meals program that allows for two sites. We are currently working with the state and federal government to continue our current expanded options.

How can students retrieve personal items left at the school?

Until the state lifts social distancing restrictions, we cannot provide access to buildings.

Will BSD be offering childcare over the summer?

We are currently developing a plan. This is dependent on the when the state lifts social distancing restrictions.

Student Needs – Health & Safety:

Have we developed new health and safety protocols?

New practices and protocols are currently being developed – we are exploring new products that can be used on a more frequent basis. An example of this is placing hand sanitizer dispensers throughout schools.

Will additional training be offered to staff?

As these various protocols come online we will ensure that staff understand expectation of uses.

Student Needs – General:

How are you supporting students who don't have the technology access or skills to learn remotely?

We are providing laptops and internet hotspots for all students in need.

Can students help with the COVID-19 response to earn community service hours? Are there other ways students can earn community service hours during this time?

Yes, students can earn community service in a number of ways. Please check with your counselor if you have an idea for community service.

How can a student get approval for outside learning opportunities during this time?

Contact your counselor and get the online fillable form. 2410P is the Board procedure, but we are using an online form now that is available if you contact your counselor.

How are you providing tech support? Some students aren't getting necessary emails. Who can help to resolve this issue?

Please go to the [Technology Support](#) section of the COVID 19 webpage. You can also call the technology help desk at 425-456-4321 or you can submit a help ticket via the website or in person at Sammamish High School. Links and information on hours are on the Technology Support page.

Last Day of School:

When is the last day of school?

June 19

Is BSD considering closing early like some districts in other states?

No. BSD plans to continue to improve our Remote Learning program and expand services.