



*Jenkins Junior / Senior High School*

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*Principal - Shawn Anderson*

24 April 2020

Dear JJSHS students and families:

RE: 2019-20 Semester 2 Grades, JJSHS High School Courses

I hope this message finds you well. I feel so proud to hear of the great learning you are accomplishing during this time away from face-to-face instruction. I also know that for many of us - myself included - the transition to working outside the structure of the regular school day has been a challenge. Sometimes, I can feel a bit overwhelmed as I try to manage my duties as principal without the benefit of sharing in your enthusiasm for your classes and extracurricular activities. While I have learned many new skills over the past month, I would trade all of them for a chance to walk through Jock City, greeting all of you as you hurry to your classes.

The COVID-19 stay at home order has prompted multiple changes in the way we help our students learn. All of these steps have been under the guidelines of the state Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI). When schools suspended on March 16, State Superintendent Reykdal first advised teachers to offer students materials and activities which would review the lessons already presented through March 13. We responded to this directive by conducting our initial packet pickup day on March 23. Superintendent Reykdal also required schools to address the varied life situations of our students and their families. In our district, we responded by continuing food service to all children who reside within our boundaries and offering childcare to first responders in need of our help.

On April 6, when Governor Inslee announced the closure of schools through June 19, Superintendent Reykdal changed his expectations for all educators. His re-direction required K-12 instructors to begin covering new content, to move from a review of prior learning to the introduction of new skills and standards. Some teachers added to their paper/pencil instructional materials by transitioning to a digital model, offering access to lectures, lessons, and assignments through Microsoft Teams, email, and online curricula. Our Chewelah School District staff have been working hard since early March to meet the expectations set by Superintendent Reykdal to support our families and to help our students continue learning.

One question at the point of many discussions is how students will earn grades for second semester. As you know, the Chewelah School District set a policy of students earning Pass/Fail marks for second semester classes. However, on April 21, Superintendent Reykdal announced state-wide criteria for how high school students will earn Semester 2 grades, which differs from our district's original plan.

In accordance with OSPI's criteria, Jenkins Junior/ Senior High School students enrolled in high school-level courses will receive second semester grades as follows:

- Teachers will average Quarter 3 (Q3) and Quarter 4 (Q4) grades.
- Students who show effort in working through the distance learning assignments provided by their teachers will earn an "A" for Q4.
- Students who were failing a class at the end of Q3 will be allowed to make up the assignments which caused the failing grade. The deadline to submit Q3 missing assignments is June 18. These students may further improve their grade through their effort applied to Q4 distance learning assignments.
- Students who were passing a course at the end of Q3, but who cannot complete distance learning assignments during Q4, will receive their Q3 grade as their final grade for Semester 2. This grade will be the letter grade reported on the student's transcript.
- Students with a failing grade at the end of Q3, who do not complete the distance learning assignments during Q4 or who choose not to complete their missing assignments from Q3, will receive an incomplete for the course.
  - These students will demonstrate proficiency in the course standards through future options which could include summer school, online credit recover, independent study, competency-based coursework, and proving proficiency of the standards of one course in the next level class (e.g. as student failing 9th English could prove his/her proficiency in 10th English).

It is important to note the OSPI recommendations for grading are specific to high school courses offered at Jenkins Junior/Senior High School. Grade requirements for elementary and middle school, EWU/CWU College in the High School offerings, Running Start, online courses taken at JJSHS, and courses offered through Quartzite Learning Center will follow separate guidelines.

You may view Superintendent Reykdal's explanation of his plan at the following YouTube link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Op2-wokFU6A>

We have eight weeks remaining in the school year. I keep all of you in my thoughts as we move forward into planning for the future. I hope this change in grading policy relieves some stress you may be feeling. Best wishes to you all.

Sincerely,

Shawn Anderson, Principal  
Jenkins Junior/Senior High School