

APRIL 8, 2020

Dear Bellarmine parents:

As we wrap up week four of remote learning and head off to Spring Break, we want to thank you. We appreciate all that you are doing to transform your home into a remote classroom for your son, and we ask that you do all you can to encourage him to unplug during this vacation. We hope that this Holy Week is a time of healing and hope for our entire community. Academic Updates

After considering the pros and cons of moving to pass/fail or maintaining letter grades, we have decided to proceed with letter grades at the end of the semester. By proceeding with letter grades, we seek to honor the extraordinary work of our students and faculty. Prior to our closure on March 12th, we completed nine weeks of instruction. Since the closure, the vast majority of our students have been able to engage in meaningful learning experiences thanks to the outstanding efforts of our faculty.

When we return from Spring Break on April 20th, our faculty will continue to notify your sons of any changes to their classes based on student feedback and course team discussions. Our faculty continues to explore alternative assessments and innovative approaches to ensure student engagement throughout the remaining weeks of remote learning. They are committed to providing your sons with meaningful work and ongoing opportunities to demonstrate mastery.

For example, our math department's revised grading policies will reflect your son's engagement which includes effort, participation in small groups during class, completion of assignments, quality of work shown, and evidence of growth/improvement in understanding. In some math courses, mastery of learning targets may be included as a smaller percentage of your son's overall grade. Instructors will share more information about their grading policies and expectations with your sons when classes resume after Spring Break.

Your son's health and well-being continues to be our primary concern. If your son is feeling overwhelmed, particularly concerned about his grades, lost or simply struggling to keep up, please encourage him to check in with his counselor or teachers. We are here to support him.

We have also decided that we will not hold traditional cumulative final exams at the end of the semester. Our overall goal is to reduce the number of high-stakes

assessments your son must complete online while still providing him with opportunities to improve his grade. During the remaining weeks of the semester, please encourage your son to complete assignments on time, participate in class, and do his best.

As a Jesuit school, we are committed to continuing to provide warmth and structure in these challenging times. Your family is a sacred member of the Bellarmine community, and we will continue to hold you in our prayers.

GO BELLS!

Sincerely,

Kristina Luscher
Principal