Hi Mustang Family,

Welcome to WEEK 8, and a hearty Happy Mother’s Day! Hopefully you are all finding ways to connect with your family today. We are now over halfway through this Remote School experience. Believe it or not, we only have 5 more weeks. It’s important to keep working, and learning. It’s true we are all facing unique challenges, but we have to keep “doing school” the best we can. Costa staff is committed to continuous school improvement. We have learned a lot, have made adjustments, and continue to work to get better. That will never change. We appreciate all the students who continue to try, and those students who communicate with us their challenges, so we can help them. We appreciate all the parents at home who have assumed the role of co-teacher, while busy with their own job and family commitments. And, we especially appreciate all the Moms today. You are heroes.

This past week our Board of Education approved changes in our grading policy. These adjustments only apply to Remote School this Semester. The new policy allows students to choose a grade of Pass (P) for the semester in lieu of a passing letter grade. Students may make this choice class by class, selecting whether a passing grade or a P will go on their transcript. Here is the new policy in it’s entirety:

- Students will receive a grade of A, B, C, D, or F.
- Students receiving any passing grade (A, B, C, or D) may opt to receive a P (Pass) instead of a letter grade on their report card and transcript; this selection can be made on a course by course basis. A grade of P will have no impact on a student’s overall GPA and will satisfy MCHS graduation requirements. Students must indicate this selection by August 1, 2020; such selection shall be irrevocable.
- Teachers are encouraged to continue to work with students who have fallen behind and to collaboratively develop achievable remediation plans to help them pass the course.
- Students are only in danger of failing if the school sends a notice of such status. The notice shall include the course(s) that the student is in danger of failing and, for each of those courses, information about the teacher’s requirements for minimum participation in distance learning activities and assignments. Such notices will be sent by the school no later than Wednesday, May 13th.
  - Such a notice will only be sent if the student was earning an F as of the 3rd Quarter grade and if the student has demonstrated minimal or no engagement in distance learning since March 16.
  - Students who receive such a notice and meet the teacher’s requirements for minimum participation in distance learning activities and assignments after May 6, 2020 will not earn a grade of F.
- Students will not receive a grade of F if their lack of engagement is due to unforeseen barriers impeding their ability to participate in distance learning as verified by a site based team that includes the teacher, a counselor, and a site administrator.

It is important to note that a grade of P on the transcript has no impact on a student’s GPA, positively or negatively. A grade of P simply means the student receives credit for the class for graduation and for UC/CSU qualification. We have assurances from UC/CSU admissions, that a grade of P will not only be accepted, it will in no way harm a student’s ability to successfully apply.

When determining your students 3rd quarter grade, any grade A,B,C, or D is a passing grade. A grade of SP (satisfactory progress) also signifies the student was passing. In the event there is no grade listed, that means the student was not failing at the 3rd quarter. The only students not passing at 3rd quarter were those who received a posted grade of F for the class, otherwise the student was passing the class.

We worry that students will realize they were passing at 3rd quarter, are not in danger of failing, decide to take a P in the class, and stop attending, participating and learning. We hope students will continue to engage through the remainder of the semester and beyond. Learning should be a life-long pursuit. It is also
important to note that students in grades 9-11 will continue their learning at Costa next year, and there are important concepts being covered now that they will need in the coming years.

Every student’s actual grade, or final “grade book grade” will be listed in Aeries under the 4th Quarter column. This grade will be referenced in subsequent years when considering pre-requisite placement in courses at Mira Costa. Aside from the idea of continuing to learn regardless of grading policies, this final “grade book grade” is important to students grades 9-11.

We know there are many questions. Over the next few weeks we hope to organize screencasts further explaining grades, as well as Q&A sessions with counselors and administrators through videoconferencing. Again, the decision on what to do with grades in any or all of a student’s classes does not have to be made for another 3-4 weeks. Give us a chance to implement these measures to clarify and answer questions. If by the first week of June we have not answered your grade question in some way, please contact us. We will also set up a process to notify teachers if students are choosing a P instead of a passing letter grade.

This week we will mail Danger of Failing notices. These notices will only go to students who had a grade of F at the 3rd quarter AND have continued to do nothing in the class. We want to officially notify those students they are in danger of failing the class, then work with them, providing them the support they need to pass the class. Teachers will provide the work needed to be done by the student, counselors will provide the needed support to the student and communicate any concerns or information the teacher may need to know about challenges the student may have, and administrators will provide answers to questions or guidance regarding process and policy. Students will need to re-engage with the class, jump start their learning, and work to complete the assignments required to pass the class.

For more information from Dr. Matthews on our change in grade policy, as well as more information on our Distance Learning goals, click HERE.

Teachers continue to submit new playlists, and this week is no different. Our new playlists this week are from Ms. Gesualdi and Mr. Locke! Be sure to take some time, have a listen, and smile a little by clicking HERE.

Congrats to our new ASB Student Government President Zach Wohl. Click HERE to see the full list of our newly elected student leaders.

Monday attendance for ALL students for ALL classes will now be done by clicking HERE. Once your student has done this, they are considered “present” for the day.

Click HERE COVID19 updates from the City of MB.

On May 13th at 7:30 am we will resume Coffee with the Principal. Click HERE to see how you can login and participate virtually. We’ll see how it goes...
**Schedule** - For the remainder of the remote school year, our weekly schedule will be as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Monday*</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00 – 10:00</td>
<td>First</td>
<td>Second</td>
<td>First</td>
<td>Second</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nutrition</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00 – 10:15</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Period</td>
<td>Third</td>
<td>Fourth</td>
<td>Third</td>
<td>Fourth</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:15 – 12:15</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:15 – 12:45</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Period</td>
<td>Fifth</td>
<td>Sixth</td>
<td>Fifth</td>
<td>Sixth</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:45 - 2:45</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**AP Testing** - AP testing begins May 11 through May 22. Click [HERE](#) to see a complete schedule, and details regarding test administration. During those two weeks, teachers will organize their workload with the understanding that AP students will be taking tests at various times. We have provided every teacher a list of students – outlining the roster of test-takers with the test and day/time. Teachers will plan their two weeks of instruction around when students take exams to avoid conflicts. Should a conflict arise, we ask students to politely email their teacher and remind them that they are in fact taking an AP exam at the date/time of the conflict. The teacher will respond with an alternative method of accessing the learning, or an alternative turn in time – depending on the specific situation. Our goal is to maintain our current academic schedule, while supporting our test-takers.

Click [HERE](#) to see where members of the class of 2020 will be attending next fall. If you want to be included, send your college tee pic to [cramirez@mbusd.org](mailto:cramirez@mbusd.org).

Keep an eye out for the Distance Learning Survey coming from the Ed Services Department at MBUSD. Your feedback on the distance learning experience is important as we continue to work to improve the Remote School environment.

Lastly, the District and the Board officially announced we will not be returning to campus this school year. Though I knew it was coming, hearing it during the Board meeting was deeply saddening. It was the right decision, and the most socially responsible, but I miss the kids. We all do. The campus is not the same. I’m there almost every day, though without the students there, I find no reason or energy to be there for long. I take courage that this will eventually end. Until then, we will continue to celebrate our students. We will continue to support and teach, and do all we can to make this new normal, normal. That said, I am committed that we will return. That day will be a great day.

Stay healthy,

Ben Dale, Ed.D.

Click [HERE](#) to learn how to sign in to Zoom for Education and troubleshoot log in issues.