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Robert G. Nelson, Ed.D.

April 9, 2020

To our Fresno Unified Educators,

We hope this letter finds you and your household safe and in good health. We appreciate the time and energy you've expended learning new tools and adapting to this new learning environment on behalf of your students. We recognize that this is not the spring break anyone envisioned but this is temporary -- we will get through this together. One day down the road, we will be back with students and colleagues doing what we love best -- educating and supporting students face to face.

In the last several weeks, we have been collaborating to build coherence in a fluid environment and we've been aligning our decisions to recent guidance provided from the California Department of Education, the California State University, and the University of California. You've seen the initial phase of this work as we collaborated to develop our TLC (Teach, Learn, Connect) guidelines last week. The purpose of this letter is to now share some grading guidelines, which will provide guidance as we move forward together to ensure all students in Fresno Unified continue to grow and improve.

The main points of our new grading guidelines are:

- **The quarter 3 grade will be a student's final semester 2 grade unless a student chooses to improve their grade.**
- **All students will be given multiple opportunities to improve their grades. Any student can work to improve their grade, not just students with failing grades.**
- **No grade will drop below the grade issued for quarter 3**
- **We will issue letter grades of A, B, C, and F while D grades will be replaced with 'Pass' in the final Q4/semester 2 grade.**

We believe that the above guidelines, aligned with the CDE and the UC/CSU systems, give the widest set of students the opportunity and the incentive to engage in distance learning and to improve their grades.

As you return next week, the focus for teachers should be the following:

Creating Opportunities for Improvement:

- **Refinalizing third quarter grades:** If you haven't done so already, please finalize your third quarter grades by April 17 at 4 p.m.
 - **Note:** This grade should be based on assignments/assessments prior to school closures.

- **Improving third quarter grades:** Begin thinking about opportunities you will provide students to improve their third quarter grades. Graded assignments should allow students opportunities to demonstrate their progress toward mastery of grade level and/or content area standards that were taught through quarter 3.
 - **Deadline: Seniors** will have until **May 22** to complete work to improve their third quarter grade. The deadline for all other students to complete work is **June 1**.
- **Fourth quarter content:** Although new content will not be graded, continue to keep your students moving forward to the greatest extent possible. Connect with your students, encourage them to move forward and prepare them for the next grade level.

We understand that these grading guidelines may generate questions and for that reason your principals will be hosting virtual Q & A sessions with you next week to provide additional information and process these guidelines with you. While we understand that no grading guidelines can account for every possible impact or scenario, we believe that these guidelines provide a pathway for teachers and students to move forward together.

Thank you for your patience, your innovation and your exceptional ability to stay connected with students as we all pivot to this new way of learning.



Robert G. Nelson, Ed. D
Fresno Unified Superintendent



Manuel Bonilla
President, Fresno Teacher Association