April 28, 2020

Dear Wildcat Parents,

Hello from my kitchen table; with two kids in high school, a college sophomore, and a husband working from home it can be hard to find the space and wifi power I need here to get things done. I know that I am not alone in this situation and I draw strength from knowing you are all in your homes facing the same challenges of living your life, protecting your family, and trying to get the kids to do a little learning.

Distance learning on this scale is new to all of us and I want to tell you thank you for the grace you have given the school as we try to create a system that will support children in their long-term education while we can't be together. I am so grateful for the amazing amount of cooperation and patience you have shown the teachers and school staff and I am humbled when through your continued assistance I see how much you value your child's education.

I'm going to be honest, I am so glad my kids are in high school and college right now. When they were in grade school and had work that needed to be done at home, they were tough to motivate and mostly my attempts at trying to teach them were met with sighs and looks on their faces that clearly said, "You are not my teacher and don't know anything!"

If you have rough days trying to get your children engaged in the school work, don't despair. I recommend you stop or change the learning session before you or your student reaches the frustration point. It is perfectly ok for you to decide to cut an assignment in half or change a project into something that works better for your family. Remember that the best "Plan B" in the teaching world is to pick up a book and read. Your student will always grow stronger academically just by reading and you can model good learning behavior and take a break yourself by reading your own book right along beside them.

Chuck Wybornery has included a letter here outlining how grading is going to work for spring semester. I have also put a link on the school's website that connects to State Superintendent Reykdal's video explaining the state-wide policy for grading for this spring. If you have any questions about these policies you can talk to a teacher or give me a call/email. You can reach me at 509 647 2221 or bross@wcsd.wednet.edu.

Stay well!

Belinda Ross
Wilbur Creston Grading Guidelines (Grades 7-12)

Spring Semester 2020* published on 4/29/20

*Note: This OSPI guidance is only in effect for the next 90 days

The following OSPI guidelines were released on April 21, 2020. These apply to all students in Grades 9–12 and middle school students taking credit-bearing high school level work will be graded using the following principles:

a. Do no harm!

b. Every student will get an opportunity to improve their grade with their March 17 status as a baseline.

c. No student will receive a “pass,” “fail,” or “no credit” grade for any course.

d. Teachers will assign grades or assign an “incomplete” for students that cannot engage in an equitable way.

e. Every class taken during the closure period will be given a statewide designator on the high school transcript to demote the unique environment in which the course was taken.

f. Students assigned an “incomplete” for a course will be given opportunities to re-engage in the learning standards based on local school district decisions in consultation with the student/parents/guardians, including but not limited to:
   i. Summer school,
   ii. Courses in the following term or year,
   iii. Independent study,
   iv. Competency-based courses,
   v. Online courses, or
   vi. Backfilling the incomplete grade with the letter grade obtained in the next course taken in that subject area.

g. All students will be given an opportunity to engage in continuous learning to maintain or improve their mastery of essential standards.

Based on OSPI guidance: (spring of 2020 only)

Wilbur-Creston students in grades 7 to 12, will earn a Letter grade of A, B, C, D, or Incomplete
Each teacher will determine if a student performed at a level that would allow their Grade on March 13th to be increased. If not, the student will receive their March 13th grade or an Incomplete.

For each Incomplete the teacher must also in consultation with the student and parent, develop a plan that would allow the student opportunities to receive a passing grade...

Teachers will continue to provide distance learning for students based on required state learning standards. This work is designed to prepare students to be successful next year.

Wilbur Elementary School grading:

Each student will receive one of the following grades with a short narrative providing a summary of student performance and suggestions on learning activities to help prepare students for the next grade level. All students will pass to the next grade level (unless retention conversations were already occurring at the time of the shutdown)

Approaching standards
Meeting standards
Exceeding standards